FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 176 *11 September 1978*

ARGENTINA

Former Diplomat Invites Vaky for Firsthand Look W 1 1/A5
Night Civil Defense Drills Held in Four Provinces W 1 1/A5

BOLIVIA

'Urgent Measures' Promised If Infiltration is Confirmed C 1 1/A6
Cabinet Discusses Issue C 1 1/A6
Briefs: Peasant Class Factions C 1 1/A6

CHILE

State of Emergency Extended 6 More Months E 1 1/A7
Number of Chuquicamata Arrests Now Stands at 52 E 1 1/A7
Dismissed Workers Listed E 1 1/A7
17 More Arrested E 1 1/A7
Steel Firm Plays Down Impact of Meal Boycott E 1 1/A7
Union Groups Apply Pressure for Labor Rights E 2 1/A7
'Missing Persons' Kin Conclude Hunger Strike E 3 1/A9
PDC Rejects Fernandez's Charge of Collusion E 3 1/A9
Ministers Conference Hears Report on Economy E 3 1/A9
Bolivia's Incursion Charge Probed; Termed Lie E 4 1/A10
Carrasco Denies Charge E 4 1/A10
Foreign Minister Returns, Discusses Trip to Rome E 5 1/A11
Reacts to Argentine Maneuvers E 5 1/A11
'LA SEGUNDA:' Chile Will Go to War 'If Necessary' E 5 1/A11

COLOMBIA

Turbay Explains Decision on Candidates for Attorney General F 1 1/A12
Ministers Oppose Turbay F 1 1/A12
Cabinet Crisis Denied F 2 1/A13
Justice Minister Defends Security Decree F 2 1/A13
Ministry Budget Increase F 3 1/A14
Industrialists Support Statute F 3 1/A14
ACOPI Endorses New Law F 3 1/A14
Government Agrees To Revise Labor Code F 3 1/A14

PERU

Government Suspends Mass Layoffs of Bureaucracy J 1 1/B1
20,000 Bank Employees Begin Nationwide Strike J 1 1/B1
Mine, Bank Strikes Near Solution J 1 1/B1
Extreme Left Denounces Rightwing Terrorist Organization J 1 1/B1
Aeronautics Minister Announces Retirement; Successor Named J 2 1/B2

VENEZUELA

President Perez Hails Ties With Spain, Cites Solidarity L 1 1/B3
Two-Hour Meeting L 1 1/B3
Suarez Departs for Cuba L 1 1/B3
Perez Denies Hostility Toward Nicaragua, Somoza L 2 1/B4

PANAMA

Panamanian, U.S. Officials Sign Treaty Implementation Notes N 1 1/B5
Labor Leader Charges U.S. Violation of New Canal Treaty [STAR & HERALD] N 1 1/B5
Vice President Notes Widespread Support for Royo N 2 1/B6
Royo's Election Certain [STAR & HERALD 9 Sep] N 3 1/B7
Torrijos Asserts Irreversibility of Panama's Revolutionary Process N 3 1/B7
Chiriqui Farmers Propose Presidential Candidate N 3 1/B7

CENTRAL AMERICA

NICARAGUA

Fighting Breaks Out Anew Throughout Country P 1 1/B8
Church Authorities Condemn Attacks on Priests P 2 1/B9
Somoza Claims Popular Support; Says Country Calm P 2 1/B9
Government Urges Rejection of Sandinists P 5 1/B12
Government, Opposition Talks Proposed P 5 1/B12
National Guard Issues Communique 50 P 6 1/B13

CUBA

Castro Grants Interview to Expatriate Cuban Journalists Q 1 1/B14
Details of Prime Minister Suarez's Visit Reported Q 28 1/D13
Castro Will Visit Spain Q 29 1/D14
Government Expresses Solidarity With Anti-Somoza Struggle Q 30 1/E1

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FORMER DIPLOMAT INVITES VAKY FOR FIRSTHAND LOOK

PY091441Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1915 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (TELAM)--Rodolfo Baltierrez, former Argentine ambassador to Panama, has sent a letter to Viron Vaky, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, inviting him to visit Argentina and telling him that a direct report from him would be very useful to President Carter.

In the letter he recalls the friendship between them, since they were ambassadors in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the same time, and in inviting him to visit Argentina he says: My country is an enclave of the free Western world and if you do not understand or do not wish to understand this, the mistake will be yours and it will have consequences for the future.

I cannot hide the fact that my country has its problems, he says, adding the questions: What country, among those within the range of your observation, is free of problems? Why is there this persistence of some of your coworkers--of both sexes--in spotlighting us for some unknown intention? The term used for this is well-known and I am not going to repeat it.

He invites Vaky to visit the country in the following words: Come to Argentina. Seek us out. Hear us. Look at us. Listen to us. Make a decision on this idea of an exploratory trip. It will be very useful to us. A direct report from you will be very useful to President Carter.

Former Ambassador Baltierrex also tells the new U.S. assistant secretary of state: Before 25 May 1973 you often listened to me speaking of ideas and intentions for our two countries to play a role, in accordance with their respective importance, in the overall policy of the hemisphere, from north to south and from south to north. Sometimes we agreed and sometimes we disagreed. At that time, my dear Viron, both of us were at the orders of our foreign ministries. Now you are in the inner circle and at the executive level.

He adds: I am sure that those ideas and thoughts of yours are now spreading through the offices of the State Department: More rapprochement; better understanding; closed doors to interference in foreign matters; wide-open doors to the broadest cooperation.

He concludes by telling him: My modest home in Buenos Aires is at your disposal.

NIGHT CIVIL DEFENSE DRILLS HELD IN FOUR PROVINCES

PY080349Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 7 Sep 78 PY

[Summary] La Plata, 7 Sep (NA)--A Defense Ministry official has reported that night drills are being carried out in the provinces of Rio Negro, Chubut, Neuquen and Santa Cruz de Tierra del Fuego to darken cities as practice for civil protection in case of war. The official said that the drills do not involve cutting off all electricity, but preventing the leakage of light, in view of possible air raids.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED 6 MORE MONTHS

PY081458Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1404 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 8 Sep (AFP)--It was reported here today that the Chilean military government has extended for another 6 months the measures establishing the state of emergency which has been in force throughout the country for the last 5 years. The measure was adopted through a law, published in today's official bulletin, based on the regulations regarding the internal security of the state.

The measures which were published today name military chiefs in the various areas of the country where the state of emergency, which was to have expired next Monday, will be applied.

NUMBER OF CHUQUICAMATA ARRESTS NOW STANDS AT 52

Dismissed Workers Listed

PY081708Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The Interior Ministry disclosed the list of the 22 workers who were dismissed at the Chuquicamata mine because they were distributing pamphlets and inciting workers to stay away from their jobs and to hold secret meetings. The official disclosure stated that the 22 persons were arrested in accordance with the authority provided by the state of siege which is in effect in that area. Those affected by the government measure are: [all names phonetic] Cecilio Castillo, Cesar Walter Ibanez Donoso, Ivan Guillermo Arvin Velasquez, Carlos Milton Casco Jimenez, Ricardo Edmundo Morales Velasquez, Zacarias Segundo Diaz Almedia, Carlos Luis Saguier Varela, Tomas Rio Pacheco Tercero, Bernabe Luis Alvarado Rojas, Sergio Dario Saguier Varela, Hugo de la Cruz Reyed[illegible], Nicodemus del Dosario Perez Peralta, Ruben Arturo Torres Soto, Marmaluco Arturo Albanez, Jorge Ledesma de Centelo, Waldo Emilio Tesara Gonzalez, Miguel Pedro Chea Navarro, Claudio Arturo Julio Julio, [name indistinct] Reyes Peredo, Victor Jamie Valenciana Ruisenor, Manuel Walter Astubillo Montecino, and Carlos Alberto Santander Quiroga.

17 More Arrested

PY082047Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] According to the government's National Social Communication Office, 17 more persons were arrested yesterday and today at Chuquicamata. Of these 17 persons, one of them, [Iliamar Felix Osin Noya], member of the Popular Socialist Union [Union Socialista Popular], [USOP], is under house arrest. According to the official communique, out of the 17 detainees, 6 belong to the Socialist Party; 4 to the Communist Party; 4 to the Christian Democratic Party and 3 to the USOP.

With these new arrests the total of those involved with the Chuquicamata miners problem who have been arrested is now 52. The official report does not specify the charges for which these people were arrested.

STEEL FIRM PLAYS DOWN IMPACT OF MEAL BOYCOTT

PY081637Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--A spokesman for the Pacific Steel Company [CAP] said here that fewer workers are using the Huachipato dining facilities, but he played down the importance of this fact by emphasizing that labor and production affairs remain normal and unchanged.

The spokesman said that it was virtually impossible to describe the total repression of workers who had not gone to the dining facilities because many of them were simply unable elsewhere. He explained that this situation is very different from the one which took place at the Chuquicamata copper mine, where the so-called bi-national commission was implemented. The spokesman said that CAP is undergoing a critical economic situation, which is well known by the workers [illegible] reports from the union leaders who form part of the company's Board of Directors.

The spokesman emphasized that, in any case, CAP does not feel that it is under pressure because the Huachipato workers are not using the dining facilities.

UNION GROUPS REPLY CRACKDOWN FOR LABOR RIGHTS

PY091817Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2026 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 8 Sep [AFP]--Union leaders who say they represent 1 million Chilean workers today asked for the reinstatement of the rights suspended when the present military regime took power. While one group of the leaders asked for a meeting with President Augusto Pinochet to present their views, other union leaders sent the government a document in which they proposed that the armed forces convoke a constituent assembly.

During a press conference, the representatives of the United Workers' Front [Frente Unitario de Trabajadores] and the National Union Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Nacional Sindical] stated: After 5 years of government, which has clearly become a military dictatorship, the workers have not taken one step forward within the government to recover what we lost on 11 September 1973. The president of the coordinating board, Manuel Bustos, emphasized: We ask that the government call for a constituent assembly where workers and the people can create a new authority. These proposals are contained in a lengthy report on the labor situation which was sent to President Pinochet by the leaders of that sector, which is linked to the disbanded Christian Democratic Party and the banned leftist parties.

Other union representatives belonging to the Group of 10 and to the National Union of Chilean Workers asked for an audience with the chief of state--and proposed the reinstatement of labor rights in a public letter. Among those rights they mentioned the right to strike, the freedom of assembly, the right to elect their leaders, and the right to collective bargaining with management.

Eduardo Rios, the president of the Group of 10, indicated: We do not want what happened in Nicaragua to happen here. We do not want to change one government for another, but we do want the government to respect the rights of workers.

Although the two groups of union leaders presented their proposals separately, as the fifth anniversary of the Chilean military takeover approaches, the leaders agreed to emphasize the critical situation of the workers and the dramatic social cost they have had to bear since 1973, when the government of the late socialist President Salvador Allende was ousted.

They warned that many groups of workers feel the urge to act outside their instructions, with results which are difficult to control and predict. One leader added: The workers are basically united, and they want to return to democracy in peace and tranquility.

MISSING PERSONS' KIN CONCLUDE HUNGER STRIKE

PY0817[illegible]Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 8 Sep (AFP)--The relatives of missing and presumably detained Chileans today concluded the hunger strike they had declared yesterday at a Catholic church.

PDC REJECTS FERNANDEZ'S CHARGE OF COLLUSION

PY0815[illegible]Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 8 Sep (AFP)--The Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today requested that all Chileans unite to be able to have normal democratic activity as soon as possible.

The PDC, which was dissolved by the military government in March of 1977, stated in a public declaration that it is interested in supporting and accelerating the country's democratization process.

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez yesterday charged the PDC and the Communist Party with being in collusion to thwart the action of the military government.

Fernandez charged the two parties with instigating the recent demonstrations against the government held at the Chuquicamata copper mine, at the Huachipato [steel] plant and at Catholic University, as well as the hunger strike carried out yesterday by relatives of missing persons.

In its declaration the PDC denied Minister Fernandez's statement and noted that the PDC is solidary with those who experience unjust persecutions, arrests, banishment and pressures.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE HEARS REPORTS ON ECONOMY

PY0817[illegible]Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] During the already well-reported round of ministers conferences, Finance Minister Sergio de Castro discussed the Chuquicamata workers problem. He said he believes the Chuquicamata workers' salaries are not as low as these workers claim because if these jobs were offered to the public these jobs would be taken gladly. He added that the sum of copper workers' [word indistinct] in the last 6 months totals $140 million, which is equivalent to building 36,000 housing units. He noted, however, that negotiations between labor representatives and the management should be carried out without any kind of pressure. In this regard Chuquicamata mineworkers leaders have warned that they will wait only until today noon for a reply from the authorities to start economic negotiations or else they will take a specific step as union leaders. Sergio de Castro also mentioned the curbing of inflation, an increase in the industrial production level, and success in trade and exports as great achievements of the present economic policy.

Regarding inflation, Sergio de Castro noted that inflation has been substantially curbed. In 1973 the inflation rate was 504.7 percent, and the average rate for 1978 is 30 percent. He added that there is still a high unemployment rate but he maintained that [words indistinct] the number of employed people has increased by 8.6 percent.

The finance minister also discussed the economic situation in such activities as the distribution of income and social expenditures. He reported that in 1970 social expenditures amounted to 41 percent of budget allocations, increasing to 55 percent in 1973 and increasing to 61 percent in the current period. He added that it is estimated this percentage will increase to 64.5 percent for 1979.

He warned, however, that these estimates should not lead people to think that all problems are solved. He added that such an attitude endangers the national recovery process.

Minister de Castro later discussed the dollar exchange rate, noting that there are no ways to anticipate what will happen next year with this exchange rate. In this regard, he foresees a stable situation without any unexpected changes.

Regarding a social security reform, the finance minister noted that [words indistinct] many studies, but that it is a controversial issue because it affects all Chileans. He added, however, that the social security reform will become a reality within a relatively short period and that it will be well received by [words indistinct].

Immediately after the finance minister spoke, Economy Minister Pablo Baraona delivered his report in which he discussed the reorganization of the public sector. He explained that there is still a lot to do, but that in accordance with the president's instructions this reorganization should be finished by the end of 1978.

As a member of the Foreign Investment Committee, Baraona noted that contracts total about $3 billion and effective income stands at $400 million. He said that most contracts were concluded in 1977 or 1978 and that most of them are for (?vineyard) projects which are long-term projects.

Later, Gen Luis Danus, vice president of the Production Development Corporation, reported that this entity had 6,500 employees in 1973, but that it now has 850 employees.

BOLIVIA'S INCURSION CHARGE PROBED; TERMED LIE

PY061903Z Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] From La Paz, Bolivia we have reports stating that peasant leaders from the (Daniel Campos) locality on the Chilean border have reported to Bolivian military authorities that the Chilean Army entered Bolivian territory. The report adds that 3 km of Bolivian territory have been fenced and mined with explosives.

Military authorities have reported that this charge will be immediately investigated at the site of the incident.

Carrasco Denies Charge

PY061903Z Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] It has been categorically denied that the Chilean Army entered Bolivian territory. Army Chief of Staff Washington Carrasco said that this charge, which was published by a La Paz newspaper, is a complete lie. General Carrasco said: It is completely false. He added that everything is completely normal in the border area.

According to reports, peasants from the city of [word indistinct] in Bolivia charged that Chilean military authorities had moved the border units forward and fenced 3 km of Bolivian territory with barbed wire.

Moreover, Deputy Foreign Minister Enrique Vales said that the Chilean Consulate in La Paz has not received any claims from Bolivian authorities.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS, DISCUSSES TRIP TO ROME

PY081701Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos stated that relations with Italy are normal, but could be improved. However, he added that this would depend on the interest in doing so and on the internal problems of each country. The foreign minister made this statement on arriving here from Rome, where he stayed for almost 1 week attending the coronation ceremony of Pope John Paul I in Vatican City. Cubillos said that during his stay in Italy he had an opportunity to meet with various well-known figures in the field of international politics, including the Italian prime minister and the president of Argentina. On behalf of the people and the government of Chile, he received the blessing of the pope. The foreign minister summarized his trip as extraordinarily moving and valuable for Chilean foreign relations.

Reacts to Argentine Maneuvers

PY091328Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 9 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--If Argentina insists that its intensive military maneuvers are normal, then we would prefer to believe that this is true, said Chile's Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. However, he added, in his opinion such a practice does not agree with the spirit of cooperation which should prevail at the negotiations on southern boundary delimitation.

Cubillos said he believes these were merely internal movements, and "we have no reason to suppose that they are directed toward us." The higher ranks of the Argentine military institution are bent on carrying on a massive training campaign in case of war, which also involves the civilian population along bordering towns, with simulated attacks and air raids. Yesterday in Cordoba, during one of these exercises, an officer was killed and our soldiers were injured. No other details of this incident were disclosed, since it is considered a military secret.

'LA SEGUNDA:' CHILE WILL GO TO WAR 'IF NECESSARY'

PY091948Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 9 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 9 Sep (AFP)--The newspaper LA SEGUNDA DE LA HORA stated here today that Chileans reply to the Argentine warlike preparations with silence. The afternoon paper commented in its editorial: If we are attacked, we will defend ourselves, and if it is necessary to go to war to defend what in fact and in justice belong to us, we will do so. The newspaper, which belongs to the same chain as the morning paper EL MERCURIO, said that Argentina is putting up a show, while Chile takes the necessary steps in silence.

LA SEGUNDA refers to reports from the neighboring country that the Argentian armed forces have ordered a general mobilization of the civilian population and that many circles are talking about war to defend Argentine sovereignty. Chile and Argentina have a border dispute in the southern zone of the continent which was aggravated when a British arbitration decision granted Chile sovereignty over the Beagle area, including three small islands.

TURBAY EXPLAINS DECISION ON CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

PA090444Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today announced his determination to establish the healthy principle of alternating party affiliation in high government posts. He said this as he explained the list of candidates for the attorney general position which is made up of Liberal lawyers.

In this manner, the chief of state disagreed with statements made today by Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra and other Conservative leaders who demanded that the post be filled by someone from that party.

In a letter to the justice minister, President Turbay said that he has drafted a list of Liberal candidates for the position because he wants to see the Colombian courts and the attorney general post filled by persons from various parties.

The chief of state noted that Escobar Sierra's presence in the Justice Ministry and the appointment to be made by the Chamber of Representatives from the list he has sent undoubtedly represent a guarantee for the people and something the parties can be proud of.

Turbay added that he has not sent the list to the chamber to respond to the natural wish of his fellow party members that the attorney general position be filled with somebody from the majority party in congress but because he believes, as he has said before, in the value of alternation in posts and in bipartisan participation in justice.

Ministers Oppose Turbay

PA082027Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra today represented the Conservative Party within the government to protest, in cordial terms, to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala the exclusion of Conservative Party candidates for the post of attorney general. He described the chief of State's decision as an innocent error.

The position taken by Escobar Sierra was immediately supported by the four other Conservative ministers in President Turbay Ayala's cabinet.

The justice minister, a Conservative from the Alvarist faction, states in a message sent to President Turbay this morning that without taking a partisan position, he could state his belief that the historical tradition of the country demonstrates the wisdom of having an attorney general whose political affiliation is different from that of the chief of state.

The justice minister asked that the attorney general not be subjected to the game of adequate and equitable representation in line with the criteria of proportionate representation of the parties, which can be confusing or misleading, since the primary interest for the community is the integrity or the moral strength of those elected to government.

As minister of justice, I am fearful and concerned that an innocent error could be committed in this regard. In such delicate matters, the purest patriotic sentiments in the national spirit should prevail and this should guide the government throughout its mandate. I am sure that you share these convictions, Escobar Sierra stated in his message. The justice minister also said: The future of the country is plagued with so many uncertainties that it could be supposed that under the circumstances the people will demand that their leaders be permanently and constantly right.

The minister concluded by stating that he has noted the needs and principles that have always won the adherence and support of the Conservative Party, which he represents in the executive cabinet as a result of his honorable appointment by President Turbay Ayala.

The Conservative Party has united for the first time at the ministerial level to ask President Turbay Ayala to give the post of attorney general to a member of that Party.

Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal said that Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra's letter to the president is respectable and reflects the desires of the Conservatives.

For his part, Education Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, after noting his profound respect for the president's privilege of appointing his aides, said that the Conservatives' position is just.

Cabinet Crisis Denied

PA092035Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1750 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Text] In Cartagena today, President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala dismissed the possibility of a cabinet crisis as a result of the presentation of a list consisting of three Liberals for the post of attorney general. Turbay Ayala told this station that he does not think the situation merits a cabinet crisis. In my government, he said, there can be cordial and respectful dissent. The chief of state said he felt the situation was fully clarified in his letter responding to the statements made yesterday by Hugo Escobar Sierra opposing the Liberal list, which will be considered by the Chamber of Representatives.

Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra said any polemic with President Turbay Ayala regarding the political affiliation of the attorney general had ended, reaffirming that he merely conveyed a respectful statement to President Turbay regarding the position of the Conservative Party. There is no confrontation with the president because the chief of state is free to draw up the list of the three candidates for the post, and I respect that right.

The justice minister disagreed with former Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, who claimed that the list should be signed by the justice minister. Escobar Sierra said the constitution says clearly it is entirely the president's responsibility to draw up the list for the post of attorney general.

JUSTICE MINISTER DEFENDS SECURITY DECREE

PA091656Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra today vigorously defended the promulgated security decree. He said that he cannot see how the decree could be considered unconstitutional. Escobar Sierra added that the decree absolutely and completely abides by the constitution. He said that it was rigorously studied and, as the decree states, each article is understandable in view of the state of siege being experienced in the country. He denied reports stating that the security decree violates human rights and stated that each time the government assumes the responsibility of protecting the life, dignity and property of persons, there are people who talk about human rights and they are the ones who constantly support human rights violators and who are involved in terrorism, subversion or vandalism.

Ministry Budget Increase

PA082015Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra has announced an increase of $5 million in the Justice Ministry's budget to finance the implementation of the security statute promulgated by the government. At the same time, he asked for cooperation from the citizens to achieve the objectives of the measures. Escobar Sierra spoke to Super Noticias in order to elaborate on his opinions about the security statute. He said:

[Begin recording] We know that we must improve the judicial officials' situation not only in regard to their own salaries but also [words indistinct] officials who appear to be (?inefficient). Also, we must establish more adequate technical bodies to conduct investigations [words indistinct] origins. For this reason, it has been decided to increase the National Police forces and that is why [words indistinct] $5 million for communications equipment and, in a nutshell, medium-sized vehicles to be used by these groups for a speedier fight against crime. Of course, we also have plans to enable justice to [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Industrialists Support Statute

PA082000Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia--Fabio Echeverri, president of the National Industrialist Association [ANDI], has described the security statute promulgated by the government as a sound measure. Echeverri said that important discussions will be held today on this controversial statute at the request of the ANDI national meeting being held in this city.

ACOPI Endorses New Law

PA092013Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The security statute promulgated by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's government is an answer to the repeated demands made by private enterprise for security and guarantees, said Jose Miguel Lopez Calle, president of the Colombian Small Industrialists Association [ACOPI]. Lopez Calle expressed the agreement and support of the organization, adding that ACOPI endorses the measure wholeheartedly and will remain attentive to observe the manner in which the measures are applied.

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO REVISE LABOR CODE

PA091728Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The national government today accepted a National Industrialists Association proposal that the structure of the labor code be revised.

Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal said that it would be advantageous to restructure all existing labor laws. He said that the government will study the procedures to be followed in order to achieve this. The minister added that the government will decide whether the new code should be adopted by the approval of Congress or by the means of the special powers granted under the constitution.

VI. 11 Sep 78 PERU

GOVERNMENT SUSTAINS MASS LAYOFFS OF BUREAUCRACY

PA071559Z Madrid EFE in Spanish 0547 GMT 7 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 6 Sep (EFE)--The president of the Peruvian Constituent Assembly reported today that the military government will suspend the latest measures aimed at reducing the bureaucracy. Victor Raul Haya de la Torre said that Prime Minister Gen Oscar Molina told him of the decision by telephone.

26,000 BANK EMPLOYEES BEGIN NATIONWIDE STRIKE

PY081030Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1725 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Lima, 8 Sep (AFP)--The 26,000 bank employees of Peru today began an indefinite general strike covering the 5 and 1/2 hours they are open to the public each day. The stoppage was ordered by the Federation of Bank Employees of Peru, which had requested salary increases of 15,000 soles monthly ($90) and the rehiring of dismissed employees. This federation, a member of the Communist Workers Central, reported that if the claims were not met within a reasonable time, a total general strike would be declared.

Since the Labor Ministry declared that strike illegal, it may also declare the stoppage illegal. Meanwhile, the Association of Banks has promised to improve the salary of employees by 4,500 soles monthly but refused to rehire those dismissed.

The stoppage was carried out very quietly. Employees were at their positions but did not work, waiting to resume their duties during the nonpublic hours in the afternoon.

Mine, Bank Strikes Near Solution

PY081402Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Sep 78 PY

[Text] According to Marcona mine workers union leaders, Marcona mine workers and employees have decided to resume work today. Union leaders explained that this is a 30-day truce while a commission goes to [word indistinct] to negotiate pending issues with the Labor Ministry.

The proper authorities have reported that they will grant all guarantees necessary for the resumption of normal production activity. Moreover, labor administrative authorities approved yesterday a (?1,500) soles salary increase to bank employees. It is expected that with this monthly salary increase the labor conflict will be solved by the beginning of October. Decree No 1352-78-91100, which authorizes this salary increase, was issued after negotiations between the Bank Employees Federation and the Bank Association were stalemated during the last few weeks.

EXTREME LEFT DENOUNCES RIGHTWING TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

PA100405Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[By Jacques Kaufmann]

[Text] Lima, 8 Sep (AFP)--Peru's extreme left recently denounced the existence of an alleged rightwing terrorist organization called the Peruvian Anticommunist Alliance, similar to Argentina's feared Triple A. According to the magazine MARKA, one of the victims of that organization was Colombian journalist Roberto Ramjul, who, the magazine claims, was kidnaped by a group of rightwing "terrorists" on 5 September.

Enrique Fernandez Chacon, a member of the Constituent Assembly and of the extreme left Popular, Student, Peasant and Worker Front (FOCEP), yesterday asked the authorities to locate Panjul. According to Fernandez, Panjul disappeared during the foiled attempt to kidnap Trotskiyite leader Hugo Blanco, who recently denounced the incident.

According to Fernandez Chacon, Panjul is a writer for the Colombian magazine ALTERNATIVA, which is directed by writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

FOCEP informed the Colombian Embassy in Lima of these incidents, but the embassy today told this agency that it had no information on Panjul's presence in Peru and that it had requested information from the Colombian Foreign Ministry in Bogota.

For its part, this week the magazine MARKA published the statements of FOCEP militant Francisco Santa Cruz, who affirmed he was kidnaped by members of an organization called the Peruvian Anticommunist Alliance after participating in a political meeting that was watched by "vehicles without license plates." According to Santa Cruz, as he left the meeting he was intercepted by a closed station wagon occupied by six persons, who kidnaped him and took him to an unidentified place after covering his eyes.

"I was subjected," he said, "to a violent interrogation on my political convictions and FOCEP's activities. The questions were accompanied by blows, threats of torture and death, insults, and all types of psychological pressure."

"During the interrogation, my anonymous captors identified themselves as members of an organization they called the Peruvian Anticommunist Alliance. As a result of the way the were shaking me, the bandage over my eyes moved slightly and standing against the light I could see the figure of a person wearing boots and a helmet. I could also hear a military bugle," Santa Cruz affirmed.

Concluding, Santa Cruz said that he was finally released in the outskirts of Lima and that his kidnapers threatened to kill him and his family if he announced publicly what had happened.

AERONAUTICS MINISTER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT; SUCCESSOR NAMED

PA1009230Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2123 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 9 Sep (LATIN)--Minister of Aeronautics Gen Jorge Tamayo, the general commander of aviation and a member of the revolutionary Junta, announced here today that he will retire on 31 December and will be replaced by Gen Luis Galindo Chapman.

Galindo, who is chief of the air forces General Staff, held the post of labor minister in 1977.

According to Tamayo, Transportation Minister Gen Luis Arias Graziani will in turn replace Galindo.

General Tamayo spoke to newsmen at military airbase No 8, in the outskirts of Lima, after returning from the southern part of the country where he inspected airbases in that area.

PRESIDENT PEREZ HAILS TIES WITH SPAIN, CITES SOLIDARITY

PA091648Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Latin America has placed its highest hopes in Spain, President Carlos Andres Perez said in a speech delivered during the reception in La Casona in honor of Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez. The Venezuelan president highlighted the great ties of friendship and cooperation which unite the two countries. He said that Latin America and Spain represent and will continue to represent the friendship and unity of which the liberator dreamed.

The chief of state noted that Spain is currently setting an example for the world with the great step it has taken toward democracy. He also voiced the Venezuelan people's solidarity with the Spanish people's struggle for full development.

Two-Hour Meeting

PA091649Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez conducted an extensive review of cooperation programs at Miraflores Palace. The meeting lasted 2 hours.

Perez told newsmen they had extensively reviewed bilateral cooperation programs. They also discussed other matters of bilateral interest and international affairs, particularly those related to Latin America and Spain.

Asked by newsmen what they discussed regarding Nicaragua, Adolfo Suarez replied they had discussed only matters of Latin American interest. Suarez said commercial relations between his country and Venezuela must reach a balance beneficial for both nations.

After their first work meeting, the Spanish chief of state said that at present more than two-thirds of Spanish investments abroad are in Venezuela. According to Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute studies, the balance of trade between Venezuela and Spain is in Spain's favor.

Asked about this balance, Suarez said: Naturally, in commercial relations between the two countries we must advance a great deal in order to reach an equilibrium beneficial for both parties. He stressed that it is not a matter of securing more benefits for either country but rather that both governments desire mutual benefits.

President Carlos Andres Perez received Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez at his Miraflores office. They talked privately for more than 1 hour and then went into the Council of Ministers Hall, where they began a work meeting.

This meeting was attended by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Bottaro Consalvi, Development Minister Luis Alvarez Dominguez, Minister of State and President of the Investment Fund Hector Hurtado, Minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency Carmelo Lauria and other high-ranking officials. On Spain's side, Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja, Spanish Ambassador to Venezuela Jose Vicente Torrente and International Economic Relations Director Miguel de (Aldazoro), attended.

Suarez Departs for Cuba

PA091742Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1353 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 9 Sep (AFP)--Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez concluded an official 4-day visit to Venezuela today and left by plane for Cuba.

Approximately 30 minutes before the departure of the Spanish delegation, the foreign ministers of Spain and Venezuela, Marcelino Oreja and Simon Bottaro Consalvi, signed and released a joint communique.

Suarez met with the most prominent figures of Venezuela's political, economic and labor sectors and held lengthy meetings with government presidential candidate Luis Pinerua and the Christian Democratic candidate, Luis Herrera, the only two candidates who have any possibility of winning the elections in December. Suarez and Oreja both met with government and business representatives and with members of the various organizations of the large Spanish community here.

Perez decorated Suarez with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Liberator; the Spanish prime minister reciprocated by awarding the Order of Carlos III to the president of Venezuela. In addition, Suarez held a press conference with local newsmen, during which he reaffirmed the need to strengthn ties with Venezuela. The same sentiment was expressed by President Perez during a news conference with representatives of the Spanish media. After appropriate military honors were accorded to the Spanish prime minister, Perez left Suarez with a warm embrace at the stairs of the plane.

The Spanish prime minister will remain in Cuba, the second and final leg of his brief Latin American tour, until Monday, after which he will return to Madrid.

PEREZ DENIES HOSTILITY TOWARD NICARAGUA, SOMOZA

PA0908BY Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2222 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[By Hector R. Lopez]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 8 Sep (LATIN)--President Carlos Andres Perez today denied that his government has any hostility toward the Nicaraguan regime. He added, however, that Venezuela has the right to protest violations of international norms, such as respect for human rights.

President Perez said that OAS and UN consideration of the crisis in Nicaragua, where a general strike is demanding President Somoza's resignation, "has become a matter of hemispheric and world interest."

"We have no hostility toward the Nicaraguan Government. Neither do we want to meddle in matters that the Nicaraguan Government should solve," but the crisis in that country is affecting the entire hemisphere and international agreements. According to President Perez, every country has the obligation and right to see that supranational organizations uphold international agreements, such as the human rights charter. President Perez said that "we will be glad" if objectives that "are not aimed at anyone in particular" are reached on behalf of the principle of self-determination and respect for human rights.

President Perez said that the incidents in Nicaragua are not the action of a group of citizens with a single ideology; "it is the entire population that is participating in it." "A general strike is in progress. The people have held a city for 5 days. We are going to see to it that international agreements are not dead letters," President Perez indicated.

Asked about Somoza's accusation that he is promoting the movement against Somoza's regime, President Perez said that he was not going to answer the accusation because it takes two to start an argument. "I do not like to be involved in situations that are politically and culturally primitive," he added.

PANAMANIAN, U.S. OFFICIALS SIGN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

PA0709Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The notes implementing the economic and military agreements of the Torrijos-Carter canal treaty were signed today by Panamian and U.S. Government representatives in this capital.

Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla participated in the ceremony as main speaker and representative of the national government. Gonzalez-Revilla referred to the significance of the economic agreements of the Torrijos-Carter treaty. He said:

[Begin Gonzalez-Revilla recording] The exchange of notes we have just signed, which were negotiated jointly with the treaty, represents a contribution to Panama's development amounting to 345 million balboas over the next 5 years. These funds will be used for the good of our people in providing employment, health, education, housing and other benefits. This is [words indistinct] of General Torrijos and it is the decision [as heard] of Minister Royo and de la Espriella if they are elected president and vice president of the republic. [end recording]

Present at the signing ceremony were Lt Col Armando Contreras, member of the General Staff of the National Guard, presidential candidate Aristides Royo, and members of the cabinet and of the diplomatic corps accredited to this capital.

LABOR LEADER CHARGES U.S. VIOLATION OF NEW CANAL TREATY

PA1100047 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 10 Sep 78 p 1, 15 PA

[Text] Charges that the U.S. undersecretary of the Army and the Canal Zone director of personnel plan to violate the spirit of the new RP [Republic of Panama]-U.S. treaty, and assurances that labor would be consulted prior to decreeing a general wage increase in Panama, highlighted Friday's observance of the 24th anniversary of Local 907 Armed Forces Workers Union.

Answering a question posed by Philip Dean Butcher, secretary general of Panama's Confederation of Workers, Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada assured labor leaders and guests attending the commemoration at the IRHE/INTEL [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification/National Telecommunications Institute] auditorium in San Francisco de la Caleta that the government will consult both private enterprise and labor before decreeing the wage increase next year.

Chief of Government Brig Gen Omar Torrijos announced recently that he had ordered all heads of government agencies to analyze their wage scales aimed at an eventual approval of wages hikes that would be more in keeping with the current high cost of living.

Butcher expressed the concern of local labor over being kept out of consultations on the issue.

Local 907 Secretary General Luis Anderson, who along with Ahumada were the keynote speakers at the event, specifically charged U.S. Undersecretary of the Army Col Crittenden and Canal Zone Director of Personnel Gordon Frick with planning to depart from the spirit of the treaty which goes into effect Oct 1, 1979.

"These men pointed out categorically, at a meeting with our union, that the United States, based on rights ceded by Panama in the new treaty, would draft regulations, set wages, restructure the system of labor-management relations, unilaterally and without giving a hoot about Panama's opinion," Anderson charged.

Anderson said that Crittenden and Frick were "very categoric" in stressing "that the U.S. will not even ask the opinion of the Panamanian Government on the matter."

Among the audience as Anderson spoke were Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla, civilian and military authorities of the Canal Zone and representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

The secretary general branded the attitude adopted by Crittenden and Frick as an obvious attempt to return to the "gold" and "silver" roll era.

"Their intention to unilaterally set wages and the conditions of employment of Panamanian workers is definitely a return to that infamous era when Panamanians were devoid of dignity and salaries were achieved by going on their knees in the office of the governor," he said.

"We were then, and shall remain human beings of secondary status if our government fails to acknowledge its constitutional right to protect its nationals and does not demand that the interpretation and application of the treaty remain within the spirit under which it was negotiated and proclaimed."

Anderson said he had not been able to get an official statement from the Panama Government on allegations that it had approved the freezing of salaries and the establishment of a so-called local rate for workers employed by the Canal Commission after the new treaty goes into effect on Oct 1, 1979. He said he had learned of the allegations from "American sources."

Ahumada informed the labor leaders that he was the bearer of greetings from presidential candidate Aristides Royo whom, he said, is interested in future talks with Canal Zone labor groups, and offered his services to act as coordinator for meetings between Dr Royo and officials of Local 900 and 907.

VICE PRESIDENT NOTES WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR ROYO

PA0820360Y Panama City Circuito RPC TV in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez met this morning with the 101 representatives of Chiriqui Province at the David Regional University Center to explain the nominations of Dr Aristides Royo and Ricardo de la Espriella for president and vice president. Gonzalez was accompanied by Health Minister Abraham Saied.

After referring to the personal qualifications of the two distinguished citizens, Gonzalez said that Royo, and no other, is the candidate; that all representatives identified with General Torrijos will vote for him; and that 285 representatives have already committed their votes to Royo.

He said that Royo had shown his administrative ability as head of a ministry that has 25,000 employees, a figure similar to that of the entire administration some years ago.

The opposition may propose candidates if it wishes to do so, Gonzalez said, but it must remember that a candidate will require the support of 50 percent of the National Assembly.

Gonzalez explained that General Torrijos does not want to run for president because this would serve the opposition's purposes and that he does not want to continue as chief of government to avoid marring the country's democratization image.

He pointed out, however, that Article 166 of the Constitution empowers the president of the republic to delegate functions to any official and that there is no impediment to the commander in chief of the National Guard being that official.

Finally, the vice president of the republic invited the Chiriqui representatives visit Parallon for a dialog with General Torrijos but he did not specify a date.

Royo's Election Certain

PA091540Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 9 Sep 78 pp 1, 7 PA

[Text] Former Education Minister Aristides Royo today appeared to be a shoo-in Oct 11 when the 505-man Assembly of Community Representatives meet to choose a new president of the republic for a six-year term.

Already pledging their support are 230 representatives from the provinces of Veraguas, Bocas del Toro, Cocle, Herrera and Los Santos, or 14 votes short of an assured victory.

For him to become elected he will need 50 per cent plus one of the 505 votes, or a total of 253.

He is said to have travelled to the Chiriqui Province yesterday, where he will try to woo the more than 100 representatives in that area "to sew things up."

TORRIJOS ASSERTS IRREVERSIBILITY OF PANAMA'S REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS

PA090431Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos said today that there is no withdrawal from or reversal of the process begun on 11 October. He added that the conquests attained by the Panamanian people will remain.

The chief of government said that there will be reforms of the constitution but that these reforms will be made democratically, within the two assemblies, the outgoing one and the one recently elected.

Referring to the nomination of Aristides Royo and Ricardo de la Espriella, Torrijos said that the decision had been duly considered, discussed and approved by the National Guard General Staff.

Torrijos' statements were made today in Parallon during 2-hour meetings with corregimiento representatives elected from Colon and Chiriqui provinces.

CHIRIQUI FARMERS PROPOSE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA080252Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 7 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Producers of the Chiriqui Province highlands, especially farmers, have begun a movement seeking the nomination of Carlos Enrique Landau as presidential candidate. They have begun to collect signatures.

A petition has been sent to Manuel H. Miranda, Boquete Corregimiento representative, asking him to ask the other corregimento representatives in Chiriqui, and his other colleagues throughout the country, for the votes needed to elect Landau. As a running mate for Landau, the producers propose Richardo de la Espriella, who had been initially proposed by Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos to run with Aristides Royo.

Landau is a well-known professional in agriculture. During the first years of the present regime he held the post of agriculture minister. He is presently engaged in his private business in Boquete.

NICARAGUA

FIGHTING BREAKS OUT ANEW THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA1110347 Buenos Aires L... IN in Spanish 0951 GMT 11 Sep 78 PA

[By Jorge Banales]

[Text] Managua, 11 Sep (LATIN)--Sporadic fighting between National Guard forces and rebel groups continued for the second consecutive night in several Nicaraguan cities, raising the number of dead to 3..., according to the Red Cross and eyewitnesses.

In Managua, shortly after midnight, a rebel group seized a bus of the TELCOR state telecommunications firm and drove around the southern district collecting arms from houses of Las Mercedes District. National Guard patrols intercepted the rebels who wore the red and black kerchiefs of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and after prolonged shooting killed one of them. The rest escaped.

The Red Cross reported that fighting and shooting occurred in several parts of the city and numerous cars were partially destroyed, turned over and full of bullet holes after being used as barricades by rebel groups.

In Chinandega, 140 km to the north, the situation was still confusing this morning as guerrillas and government troops continued fighting in the center of the city in darkness caused by attacks which destroyed power transformers last night. Variedades Theater in Chinandega was set on fire by bombs and a neighbor told LATIN that the rebels erected a barricade with rocks, cars and barbed wire two blocks from the guard garrison. Soldiers fired from an armored car at two 2-story buildings, one of them under construction, in which the rebels had situated themselves. The impact of the bullets of the heavy machineguns mounted on National Guard jeeps hit the walls of a nearby church. Telephone communications with Chinandega were cut off early in the evening. The Red Cross told this agency that its aid teams could not work due to the intense shooting. By early this morning, the main centers of the disturbances continued to be the districts of Libertad and El Calvario. Contact bombs continued to explode near El Picacho Airport, which was seized yesterday by the rebels.

In Matagalpa, 120 km north of Managua, which was the scene of bloody fighting 2 weeks ago, the Red Cross said that machinegun strafing continued together with the explosion of bombs and hand grenades. No casualities were reported.

Leon, 90 km from Managua, was shaken the whole night long by shooting in different districts, and the Red Cross said that, like in Chinandega, it was unable to provide help due to the hostilities. Foreign correspondents visited this city late yesterday and counted 10 dead. They saw young rebels firing 22-caliber rifles at the light armored tanks and throwing fragmentation grenades made of gunpowder and metal fragments wrapped up in tape. These homemade explosives are the rebels' main weapon. The guerrilla groups that started the attacks on Saturday night were armed with Garand rifles and grenades but their ammunition has run out. In the various uprisings and blockades which follow the incursions of masked guerrillas with red and black kerchiefs, the rebels use molotov cocktails, rocks, small arms and contact bombs.

In Diriamba, 40 km south of Managua, gunfire and grenade explosions are heard in the middle of the city. Jinotepe residents report hearing the sporadic explosion of homemade bombs.

The Masaya Red Cross reported at midnight that its teams could not operate due to the continuous exchange of fire around Monimbo District. The residents of that area, who live in adobe houses, protect themselves during battles by piling mattresses against the walls.

Managua was totally deserted last night after the guerrilla groups hiding in trees between the "Luis Somoza" and "14 September" neighborhoods killed a soldier. The patrols killed two rebels.

CHURCH AUTHORITIES CONDEMN ATTACKS ON PRIESTS

PA100307Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1750 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 8 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Authorities of the Managua Archdiocese, which also includes the departments of Masaya and Carazo and is headed by Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, have expressed their "strong repudiation of the sacrilegious attacks carried out against churches and priests of this archdiocese." After recalling that "such sacrilege is punishable by the sanctions in several precepts of canon law including 'ipso facto' excommunication by the local bishop," the church authorities affirm that they are acting in accordance with the appeals of the episcopal conference on "loyalty to Christ, which imposes on the church and on all believers the duty of fighting for a more just and humane society by denouncing any oppression."

An official communique released by Managua's Archepiscopal curia and signed by Vicar General Msgr Bosco Vivas and Msgr Roberto Vela Matamoros, chancellor of the archdiocese, denounces a number of recent abuses committed against archdiocese members and institutions.

"The church has been wounded," the document states, "by abuses committed against priests Jose Maria Gonzalez, who was shown disrespect despite his advanced age, and army chaplain Ronaldo Garcia Lopez, who was brutally beaten by a soldier. Other instances were the raids and machinegunnings carried out by the military at the Jinotepe parish (Carazo), the San Jose de Diriamba church and the Franciscan priests' convent annexed to that church."

SOMOZA CLAIMS POPULAR SUPPORT; SAYS COUNTRY CALM

PA092009Y Panama City Circuito RPC-TV in Spanish 1745 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Unattributed telephone interview from Mexico with President Anastasio Somoza on Nicaraguan situation; date, place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] We were informed here that you were holding a meeting. What was the topic?

[Answer] This is a meeting I hold everyday with my cabinet, to review the situation in the country and to adopt the necessary measures for the benefit of the country. We have conducted a census of Managua which reveals that 80 percent of the small and large industrial establishments are operating. The general situation in Nicaragua is one of peace and tranquillity. In the provinces, 50 percent of the activity is normal, except in Esteli.

[Question] Why are so many businesses closed?

[Answer] Well, they are the same people who called the strike last February. We are waiting, however, for them to get tired.

[Question] If they do not get tired, will you get tired?

[Answer] No, because the country is progressing normally. Traffic in Managua is normal, agriculture continues at its normal pace, with the largest workforce in the country, and there are no problems.

[Question] Mr President, is it true that in the last 2 days several hundred persons have been arrested?

[Answer] Yes, several persons were arrested who were engaged in terrorist activities.

[Question] How many were arrested?

[Answer] About 200, but already several have been released, leaving only about 150 still under arrest throughout the country.

[Question] Are they going to be tried?

[Answer] All of them are going to stand trial.

[Question] Mr President, do you feel you are supported by the people of Nicaragua?

[Answer] Did you ask if I feel I have the support of Nicaraguans. Why, yes, I do feel I have the support of the great majority of the Nicaraguan people.

[Question] Mr President Somoza, Mr Ray Molina declared that you were tired of President Carter. Is that true?

[Answer] That was a report released by UPI in which Mr Molina must have been misinterpreted. Besides, Mr Molina is not a spokesman for the government nor is he authorized to make such statements.

[Question] Mr President, it was also reported that you had said you would only leave Nicaragua by taking your people and your weapons with you. Is that true?

[Answer] It is true that if we violate the constitution here in Nicaragua, there will be no fundamental law to control the groups. Therefore, I myself would be creating a group illegally and unconstitutionally. That is what I tried to tell those people who want me to violate the constitution.

[Question] Will you comply with the constitution by completing your government term?

[Answer] Correct, by leading the country to a peaceful solution in an election in 1981.

[Question] What would happen in Nicaragua if you were to leave power now?

[Answer] There is nobody in Nicaragua or any party, except the Nationalist Liberal Party, that could control the situation in Nicaragua because the opposition is not organized; nor does it have the necessary popular support. Only the Nationalist Liberal Party has that support and the army.

[Question] What would happen if the Sandinists took over?

[Answer] Nicaragua would become a Marxist-Leninist state.

[Question] Mr President Somoza, it is said that AID has granted you new credit, but that the Inter-American Development Bank has withdrawn its aid. What is the true situation?

[Answer] The real situation is that Nicaragua has a good reputation financially and it is receiving credit from trade and multinational banking sectors and from the governments which provide international aid, such as the United States.

[Question] What is your opinion of President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela?

[Answer] Well, I believe he is trying to harm me and play his game of internal politics in Venezuela.

[Question] Is it a warlike situation or merely a diplomatic conflict?

[Answer] Diplomatic conflict.

[Question] Will your son be a presidential candidate?

[Answer] He cannot be a presidential candidate because the constitution does not permit it. Besides, he is not yet old enough to aspire to the presidency.

[Question] President Somoza, have there been any desertions or rebellions in the National Guard?

[Answer] Very few desertions. I would say the normal amount. There has been no rebellion.

[Question] Are civilian employees being armed?

[Answer] Not yet.

[Question] It was reported that they were being provided with weapons. Is that true?

[Answer] Not yet.

[Question] Does that mean that it is being considered?

[Answer] That is correct. Nicaragua is the country in Central America which has the least number of persons employed to maintain public order. That is what has helped Nicaragua in its social and economic development in the past. We have fewer men per capita than any other country in America.

[Question] Mr President, is the opposition against you receiving foreign support?

[Answer] I cannot say if it is. I can only conjecture. There are governments opposed to mine and, therefore, they are allies of the Nicaraguan opposition.

[Question] What is President Carter's attitude?

[Answer] His attitude is that my government must continue its normal functions and lead the country to elections in 1981.

[Question] Do you not fear an attempt on your life?

[Answer] Ever since I assumed the presidency for the first time, I had reasons, like any other head of state, to adopt measures against any such attempts.

[Question] Mr President, have you established any contact for a dialog with the Sandinistas?

[Answer] No, because they have refused to talk.

GOVERNMENT URGES REJECTION OF SANDINISTS

PA110024Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Sep 78 PA

[Statement read over National Radio Network by network announcer]

[Text] Although many have believed that the war being waged by the Sandinist Front is against the constitutional government of President Somoza, the communiques, the actions and the terrorism which characterize the members of the Sandinist Front clearly indicate that their war is against the system, against all Nicaragua's structures--private enterprise, representative institutions, and the National Guard.

Do not be a useful tool who cooperates with those who will assassinate and destroy your well-being that has been won with sacrifice and years of labor.

The poor, simple and hard-working Nicaraguan [words indistinct] too valuable to lose--freedom. Take your place in the offensive to defend the fatherland from the communist aggression.

GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION TALKS PROPOSED

PA110511Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0615 GMT 11 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Luis Pallais Debayle, a cousin of President Somoza and spokesman for the Liberal majority in the Nicaraguan Congress, insisted today that to solve the nation's problems "there should be frank talks between the government and the opposition."

The progovernment leader rejected any possibility that President Anastasio Somoza will resign, stressing that the talks should be directed at seeking necessary constitutional reforms.

Pallais Debayle, who was mentioned abroad as a reported member of a provisional government in case General Somoza withdrew, admitted he went to Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica. However, he said the trips to those countries were "personal" and that at no time did he have an opportunity to talk with representatives of the Venezuelan, Panamanian or Costa Rican governments.

Pallais Debayle noted that although it is true that he has been travelling abroad lately, his trips are "known to all" because they have received international publicity, especially by the U.S. press and television. Pallais Debayle emphasized that in his recent trips he has been on the mission of "proselytizing for General Somoza" and also explaining the Somoza government's position.

On the possibility that President Somoza will withdraw under the present circumstances, he said he would say "with absolute certainty" that General Somoza "does not intend to resign." "What is more," Pallais Debayle added, "the Nationalist Liberal Party would never permit President Somoza to resign because it considers him its leader and a man capable of resolving Nicaragua's problems."

Referring to the mention of his name as a replacement for General Somoza in the presidency if he should step aside, Pallais Debayle pointed out that "constitutionally this cannot be done." He explained that the constitution forbids any relative of the president, within the fourth degree of consanguinity and affinity, to succeed him as president. He added that General Somoza and the Nationalist Liberal Party, the official party, "are determined to uphold the constitution."

"If it were necessary to hold talks to reform the Magna Charta, this would be on the reorganization of the electoral branch and other reforms to achieve a political opening that will lead to solutions to national questions," he said. He also said that the talks between the government spokesmen and the opposition "would never be to amend the prohibition regarding relatives of the president in matters of presidential succession."

On his personal political duties Pallais Debayle said that "it is only to seek, within the guidelines provided by General Somoza, the atmosphere to solve the national problems for the benefit of the Nicaraguan people." President Somoza's cousin emphasized that he has no other ambitions than "serving President Somoza" because he is "convinced that the chief executive should comply with his constitutional mandate which expires in 1981." He then reasserted that Nicaragua's problems can be solved "only through frank talks, seeking needed constitutional reforms such as changes to the electoral law" so that in 1981 all Nicaraguans and political parties will be "absolutely free" to elect to the presidency the citizen and party that has majority support. "I think that the Liberal Party will show then, once more, as it has done in the past, that it is the majority party of all Nicaraguans," said Pallais Debayle.

Nevertheless, opposition parties have repeatedly insisted that they want no dialog with Somoza. On the contrary, the opposition has answered appeals for talks with nationwide strikes while the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has increased its political and military operations. Regarding the strong words of Father Ernesto Cardenal Martinez in Costa Rica, Pallais Debayle only commented that "he is a magnificent poet whom I have read, but he is not in touch with the reality of Nicaragua."

NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 50

PA1107S4Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0736 GMT 11 Sep 78 PA

[Communique No 50 of the legal and public relations office of the Nicaraguan National Guard--read by announcer over official national radio network]

[Text] The legal and public relations office of the Nicaraguan National Guard informs the people that with the restoration of order in the cities of Leon and Managua, the people are invited to resume their daily work with the assurance that the authorities will be continuously on the alert to maintain order to guarantee the daily activities of the city.

The operation started yesterday continues in the cities of Esteli and Masaya to evict subversives who persist in terrorizing the people, setting fires, stealing and pillaging private property, and seriously disrupting public order.

In addition, bloodstains were found after a search by authorities in the Calasanz school in this city [words indistinct] and cast off clothing and the following arms: two 30-30 rifles, two .12-gauge shotguns, one M-1carbine, and one .38 caliber revolver. Among the persons arrested for questioning in connection with this discovery of weapons were five priests of the community, who have already been released after being properly investigated.

The National Guard continues maintaining order and control throughout the entire republic.

[signed] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, chief of the legal and public relations office of the Nicaraguan National Guard.

CASTRO BRANDS INTERVIEW TO EXPATRIATE CUBAN JOURNALISTS

FL0809200Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0101 GMT 8 Sep 78 FL

[Cuban President Fidel Castro's press conference with exiled Cuban journalists and "several North American journalists" on 6 Sep; place not given; questioners identified when given--recorded]

[Text] Good evening, commander. The first question is: Outside of Cuba there have been reports of imminent general amnesty for political prisoners [words indistinct] said were the first. What is the truth about all this?

[Castro] I think that maybe there is some confusion regarding this matter. Actually, there is no commitment, no decision regarding amnesty. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the first information given originated in the United States and they were not precise enough. And this might have caused some confusion. Actually, we did take some steps. We have been taking steps for a long time but very discreetly. We gave no publicity to this problem. This problem..the publicity came from the United States. As I explained..as the Ministry of Foreign Relations explained, the decision that was made to facilitate the departure from the country of a few hundred people and their relatives who either had completed their sentences or were on conditional release. To them were added scores of people who were in jail.

Naturally, those persons already released were asked if they wanted to go to the United States because the problem of adapting is not easy for persons who have been in jail for counterrevolutionary crimes. There is a certain rejection and the possibilities of giving them jobs becomes more difficult everywhere when it is known they have been in jail for counterrevolutionary actions and people are reluctant to give them jobs. So we have asked what they prefer and those who want to leave we have given them...[Castro does not complete thought] those who have been asked and have relatives or friends in the United States, they have been in favor of leaving and we decided to provide them the facilities to leave.

[Question] [Words indistinct] forty-eight political prisoners [words indistinct]?

[Castro] How do you know?

[Questioner] [Words indistinct] I (could see) the comments. [Words indistinct] some in the United States. In other words, they have problems entering the United States.

[Castro] I could not say that they would have problems in going to the United States. The lists were turned in. This matter has been going on for a few months, as I said, discreetly. And some lists had been turned in to the United States Government because the U.S. Government has to give permission for them to enter the country. They were studying the lists in the United States. I would not say the case of Tony Cuesta. But in the case of the lists, we have made them available. They are studying how to do it. They were asking for data. And this has been delayed.

[illegible] arrangements are more advanced now. They already have lists of these people. They have the lists of some of these people, and I believe that they are going to make the arrangements. I think that they are going to send a team to the interest section to study all the cases and to reach a decision. I do not know that they rejected beforehand Cuesta's entry to the United States. I understand that Cuesta's wife and children live in the United States. He came from the United States. He lived in Miami.

When he came to carry out an attack it was a serious action. He came with a small group and a speedboat to introduce into this country two persons who planned to carry out an attack against me. Then there was a confrontation between security forces and Cuesta on the boat. I believe that he had conducted scores of this type of action. The boat had an encounter with navy units. He was seriously wounded. Therefore, his residence in Miami is his legal residence. I do not see how they can stop him from going to his legal residence since he lives in Miami.

[Question] Mr President....

[Translator] Your name and your....

[Castro] I wanted to say that I am in no hurry and I am prepared to answer all questions that you might want to ask. I do not know if the material will be sufficient. Go ahead.

[Question] My name is Ed Rabel of CBS.

[Castro] I know you already.

[Rabel] Concerning the release of the political prisoners and the imminent departure of persons of dual citizenship to the United States, what do you believe will be an appropriate response from the United States Government (?toward your) unilateral action?

[Castro] To which prisoners is he referring? To these 48 prisoners?

[Translator, addressing Rabel] Are you referring to these 48 political prisoners?

[Rabel] Exactly, and to the dual nationals?

[Castro] I think these are two different problems. There was a certain number of persons who could more or less prove dual nationality. Perhaps because they had North American parents or had Cuban parents and were born in the United States. And for many months this problem was the object of interest of some legislators who came to Cuba. Several legislators, including Representative Solarz, were interested in this matter. We explained that we had no objection whatsoever if there was a person with dual citizenship status who wanted to return to the United States. We would not create any obstacles and would provide all the means for their departure. That was months ago. It was before this matter to which the Venezuelan newspaperman referred. [sentence as heard]

Actually, we expect no response from the U.S. Government. Regarding the matter of North American citizens, allegedly of dual citizenship, I would say that in part it was a response on our part to changes of attitude by the U.S. Government. Regarding the Cubans, none of these problems has been discussed with the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government has absolutely, absolutely nothing to do with this. We have made these decisions on our own by virtue of a number of reasons, causes, factors among which are some contacts established with us by certain personalities among Cuban emigres.

But I would say that many people have participated in this matter, and many factors too. But this is not being done on account of the U.S. Government. The Government only participates and solely in what relates to authorization to enter the United States.

[Rabel] To follow up on this question, please. A diplomatic source here in Havana characterized the release of political prisoners as a gesture toward President Carter and his human rights policy. Would President Castro agree with that characterization?

[Castro] I would not agree with that characterization. The U.S. Government may have had some indirect influence in this matter, not because of its verbal policy on human rights, but because this establishment unquestionably put an end to the policy of support for terrorist activities against Cuba, terrorist and counterrevolutionary activities in connection with Cuba. And with that policy it created conditions which enable us to take some of these steps. It is in this sense that we can speak about some influence of the U.S. Government on our attitude. Of course, one could not speak or think of it at all as I have, as there was a policy of support for terrorism and counterrevolution on the part of the U.S. Government against our country. Today such a policy does not exist on the part of the U.S. Government. The blockade and other hostile policies are still maintained by the U.S. Government...other things are maintained, certain aggressive activities, but we cannot say that the U.S. Government currently is supporting terrorist and counterrevolutionary armed actions against Cuba. And I believe that this has had an influence.

[Question] Mr President, I would like to turn to the subject of Cuban exiles once more. What do you feel Cuban exiles should be allowed to return home and be reunited with their families?

[Castro] Well, the first thing one would have to ask is if the Cuban exiles want to return to Cuba.

[Question] Many do.

[Castro] Secondly, if conditions exist in Cuba, if we can guarantee them jobs, if we can guarantee them housing. All this implies problems of a material nature.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct] visit their relatives, their families, and not remain in the area.

[Castro] Well, I think that is part of the group of problems that might interest the Cuban community over there. It is part of the problems which can be considered, can be examined and can be discussed but about which there is really no decision yet. I believe that perhaps in the course of this conference we can clarify some ideas on what the path might be to reach solutions to these matters. Maybe it would be appropriate to explain that I think a certain change in attitude has taken place, both among the masses of Cubans abroad and among the leaders of our people and of the revolution in general. I think that there has been a process of flexibility. Different factors have contributed to this, many factors. We have mentioned some. The United States has made some gestures regarding Cuba. A certain dialogue has taken place between the United States and Cuba. This has created a certain climate.

But essentially there is something else. The revolution is going to be 20 years old. From our point of view, it is absolutely consolidated. It is irreversible. We know that. The U.S. Government knows it. And I think that the Cuban community abroad knows it too. It is an important fact of life that these conditions have been created so that we can think about some of these problems. These conditions did not exist before. Perhaps more years would have passed and we might not have realized it. But it must be said that many persons have worked in this direction.

For example, I would say that something that helped us become aware of this and which had great impact on public opinion was the visit of the Maceo Brigade. Those youngsters, who had nothing to do with these problems and were not to blame for these problems, visited Cuba in a peaceful climate, in a friendly attitude, and produced a great impression on our country. There are thousands there are people in the United States from various groups who have been supporting the blockade and have favored lifting the blockade and had a peaceful attitude toward Cuba.

I am going to cite an example. Reverend Manuel Espinosa. He is not the only one. There are many people who for many years have been speaking about a different policy on our part and on the part of the community. It seemed that they were preaching in the desert. And actually conditions did not exist. The men and women of the House of the Americas in New York also worked for many years. I have cited just a few examples which helped us to realize that we could not be narrowminded toward the Cuban community abroad, in the United States, in Venezuela and in Spain. It seems that after the heat of this struggle over so many years between the United States and Cuba, we had forgotten that there were many emigres even before the revolution who were living in the United States and who had even supported the revolution before its triumph. And there are tens of thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people in the Cuban community who never participated in counterrevolutionary activities, who never carried out hostile actions against Cuba. However, there is a tendency among us to look at them as a whole. And I would say that the years, experience, new factors and the work of many people--among which we must, of course, include some personalities of the community who were not linked to counterrevolutionary actions--talked to us. They became interested in these problems and made us think about these problems in a new situation, this present situation.

Through all these factors we have become aware that there are a number of problems of interest to the Cuban community. They are many problems. We could cite some of them. The Cuban community is interested in the question of prisoners who still remain in Cuba, who are still in Cuba. It is interested in the problems you mentioned of reunification of families. It is interested in having the same rights to visit Cuba that the U.S. citizen has today, and the members of the Cuban community do not presently have this right, those of Cuban or North American citizenship who left Cuba after the revolution. In sum, there are many matters of interest to that community. And we are becoming aware of those problems. These problems are internal ones of our country. And we are not willing to discuss them with the U.S. Government. They are Cuban domestic matters and matters concerning domestic affairs of Cuba and we do not discuss the sovereignty of Cuba, nor will we discuss it, with the U.S. Government.

On the other hand, we are willing to examine these problems with the Cubans who are abroad. In other words, we are willing to discuss, to talk over these matters that interest the Cuban community with the Cuban community, but not with the U.S. Government. But these are problems to be examined, to be discussed. I can express our willingness to discuss these problems with the Cuban community.

[Question] [Words indistinct] before coming here officials of your government told us that (?you) would be announcing a significant change in policy (?toward) the Cuban exiles. Is there a significant change?

[Castro] Well, everything depends, everything is relative in this world. But I think that this change...not change...conclusion [as heard] unquestionably implies a change. It is not a case of spectacular announcements. I do not have the intention of making spectacular announcements, only to explain our present policy regarding this. And maybe there is some significance to the fact that for the first time in almost 20 years we are willing to talk with personalities of the Cuban community abroad. We are not willing to talk with the counterrevolutionaries. We will never talk with the counterrevolutionaries, although the counterrevolution has been weakened so much that it is not known if it still exists. There are some manifestations of a counterrevolution, some who live off the counterrevolution and want to continue living off the counterrevolution. That is how it is, but we are not willing to talk or discuss anything, now or ever, with personalities of the counterrevolution. We are, however, willing to talk and discuss the problems that are of interest to the Cuban community with personalities of the Cuban community.

[Question] Ana Azcuy of Channel 4 television [of Miami]. You speak of holding talks with personalities of the Cuban community in exile. Who are these persons? When would these talks be held and when would such talks produce results?

[Castro] I am not talking about holding talks. I am talking about our willingness to have these talks, about the problems in which the Cuban community is interested. I have mentioned some of these problems. I know that these problems exist and we have talked with some personalities, not with many, but with some personalities. I do not think it is worthwhile to mention names here. There is no doubt about it. You know very well what the factors are that have an influence in the community. You know that there are many groups. You know that there are many divisions, and I do not think it would be advisable to introduce this element, if one tries to think about some positive things. I say that for our side we would have done this very discreetly. But I repeat that we did not publicize this. One could say that this is something that is just beginning, the first steps are being taken. One has to prevent the child from dying at birth, or from being harmed.

But I would say that for our side the gesture to facilitate the departure of a sizable number of people who have been imprisoned or who have been released, or who have been conditionally released, or even some who are still in jail--this is a gesture from our side. It is proof of our seriousness that we are willing to discuss these problems. But this has become publicized, and it is being discussed. But we are not to blame for this. Maybe if there was more discretion about these questions, calmness and patience. This cannot be arranged in 24 hours. We are not dealing with spectacular things. We do not believe that this is the path. Now--but I think this takes time--there should be, those should be people, let us say, personalities more or less representative, and from our point of view not tied to any counterrevolutionary leadership, group or faction. Of course, we are not going to talk to that type of person. Twenty years have not gone by in vain, with a victorious and consolidated revolution for us to now hold discussions with ring leaders of the remnants of the counterrevolution. These groups are a minority today.

Therefore, I would say that a minimum condition would be that the personalities with whom to discuss these problems would be people who are more or less representative and not tied to counterrevolutionary leaderships or factions. We are not imposing many conditions, we have not said representatives, because who can say who represents the Cuban community today. No one represents the community. I cannot see how this can be arranged if not by talking with some personalities, more or less representatives but not tied to counter-revolutionary factions--this is the minimum condition--and not deal with ringleaders of counterrevolutionary factions which still exist there, whether they be real or symbolic. They can still exist, real or symbolic. These ideas are being worked out, but they have not been worked out yet. I say that the first steps were being taken up to the time it became publically known. All of this has to be thought about, and one even has to think about what the Cuban community thinks.

No, what we say is simply that this is a question of national dignity and national sovereignty. We will not discuss this, nor will we ever discuss this, with the U.S. Government because these are our country's internal matters.

I should also say that the U.S. Government has not tried to discuss these problems with us. I believe that they have not shown an interest in this, and I believe that this is correct; that they understand perfectly that we will not discuss this type of problem with the U.S. Government. But we are saying that these are questions which are of interest to the community. At the top, the question of the prisoners, the problem of reuniting families, the problem of Cuban rights to visit our country--we are willing to discuss these with the Cuban community.

imprisoned.

And the U.S. Government had no other solution but to allow these people to travel to the United States. That is history. We asked that everyone who wanted to leave the country say so. We provided facilities for all those people who had passports to leave. And the so-called freedom airlift was established. The word liberty has been used much. Someone said a long time ago that many crimes are committed in the name of liberty.

In any case, regarding the concern expressed by the community I think that this danger does not exist. I really do not believe that the United States is going to adopt a selective policy and admit only those who have been directly linked with the CIA or North American agencies. I do not believe it. I do not have that concern. That is the first thing. In the second place, we discuss these problems with Cubans and the Cubans will not make selections. And thirdly, if the United States does not want to accept some of those 48 persons, we have not established it as a requirement for release of them. Therefore, the U.S. Government cannot decide at the last minute that we should or should not release a certain person. So, I repeat that we are willing to discuss with the representatives of the community even the question of the prisoners we have. You probably would like to know how many there are and I can answer all your questions. Now then, I would say that there is one thing we could not discuss and that is the case of prisoners who are affiliated with terrorist groups and prisoners who committed serious crimes during the tyranny, because these are problems that are more delicate and we are not interested in filling the ranks of terrorists and the groups who have committed crimes like the crime in Barbados, where they blew up the airliner and assassinated 73 persons. The entire (?crew) died. We cannot forget that.

We are quite willing to seek formulas and solutions to essential problems. Now, there are some points beyond which we cannot go.

[Question] [Words indistinct] release of prisoners and allow the departure [words indistinct].

[Castro] We are willing to discuss...we have not made a decision but we know these problems interest the community. I think...we have released...it is the decision that has been made. There is no decision. There is no commitment with regard to other prisoners. But we still have in prison approximately 3,000 prisoners for counterrevolutionary activities and there are about 400 for crimes during the tyranny, the period before the revolution, of whom many are directly involved in the murder of people and that is a more delicate matter. There are persons who, of course, have been sentenced and when they complete their sentence they will be released. But it is more delicate for us [words indistinct] with the relatives of the victims. It is a delicate situation, that is, the case of people who committed crimes during Batista's time. It is a very delicate and very special problem. I would say they are in the minority, a minority of persons who are affiliated with terrorist groups which are still active. And we do not want to fill the ranks of the terrorists. That is why we would not be willing to discuss this.

Regarding the other [problems], we would be willing to discuss them with the community. And I believe that this would have been inconceivable 15, 10, 5 or 3 years ago. New conditions have been created within the community and within our country. We had never been willing to consider this although many people have struggled for it. Actually, there were no conditions and we were not willing and the time was not propitious for it. Is that clear? Very well, it is clear.

[Question] [Words indistinct] last week's announcement had [word indistinct] the talks with the Cuban community and you [words indistinct] with action by Washington?

[Castro] No. Actually, I understand perfectly well [words indistinct] United States to be discreet. Many people were involved. It seems to me that it is preferable to discuss these problems without pressure, without scandal, without division.

I do not know what consequences the publicity will have on all of this. Therefore, that is why I say that it would be preferable that these things be dealt with with the greatest discretion, so that passions do not become involved.

But I also understand that the U.S. Government had to authorize those peoples' trip, and since several authorities had to become involved, it became difficult. I beli... that publicity causes some inconvenience, but it is not an obstacle. It does not necessarily damage these things. Now then, despite everything--I believe that discretion is necessary--I also believe that--and not because we have had talks--we have had talks with some personalities, serious persons, and we have talked with them, but I believe that we should talk with more people. One cannot speak about true talks. When I say that I am willing to talk with personalities, I imagine. I think about a broader group of people. But you know how things are. This also implies some risk, because there are terrorist groups that are opposed to anyone speaking to Cuba. I do not know why, I do not know what they are thinking of, we do not need this. Let us say that we are doing this as a matter of principle, as a matter of political honesty, because it appears to be constructive.

At the same time, there are terrorist groups, and you know that there are still hundreds of terrorists in the United States who try to intimidate the community and threaten the people. They explode bombs and carry out attacks and have killed many people in the United States. Therefore, logically, if perhaps there are some people who are aware of the possibility of resolving some important problems, and who are sincerely concerned about those imprisoned, and if they are interested in the problems in the community, they run the risk of being attacked. Attacks and aggression may be committed against them, who knows. But experience shows that this risk exists. I would say that this is one of the reasons we do not carry out this policy openly, and we are not interested in publicity, nor are we concerned with publicity.

[Question] [Words indistinct] I work for the Miami HERALD. Is there a possibility that we could get the list of the first 48 people that was already delivered to the U.S. Government. [words indistinct] and second, within this same framework, could you tell us if there is a possibility that Hubert Matos is one of the prisoners to be freed in the first group [words indistinct]?

[Castro] I will answer the question. We, I do not know how the North Americans to whom we gave the list will take this, if we published the list. Maybe if we published this list they would think it was pressure we were applying to force them to accept. That is, we do not think it is advisable that we unilaterally make this decision. It might harm the prisoners. It could be considered an unfaithful action on our part. If we publish the list, we create a problem, because for all practical purposes we would be preventing them from making their own decision.

In this group of 48 people, Hubert Matos is not included. I believe that Tony Cuesta is the most important one, and I do not know if there is someone else. I have not personally participated in this [word indistinct].

It is better to say that this has been discussed with some Cubans abroad. In regard to Hubert Matos, at the end of 1979 Hubert Matos will have completed his sentence. Naturally we have not excluded him and, if asked if he might be included in the talks, we would not exclude him.

[Question] Mr President, I have two questions. A little while ago, in answer to a question from Comrade [words indistinct] United States in reviewing these political prisoners. In any case, you [words indistinct] position to free them so that they could go somewhere else.

Now that this exists, is it not evident that this is not a manner of pressuring the U.S. Government [words indistinct] because the Cuban community which was very anxiously awaiting the names of the 48 people. Could we know who they are? [words indistinct]

[Castro] Well, that is a question. But I am completely convinced that the North American government would consider it to be pressure applied by our side, I am certain of it. Therefore, there is something that we are very careful about, that is, seriousness and discretion. I do not want them to later imply that we were acting in bad faith. At the moment, we do not have even the least idea of what criteria will be used by the North American authorities. Over there it has been said that they must review the list to see that we do not send terrorists. Well, we are the first ones interested that terrorists do not leave. [Words indistinct] they also say that we might send spies. That is the most ridiculous way to send spies to the United States--to suppose that some of the individuals imprisoned for many years are our spies and that they are going to go to the United States to spy for us. Really, that makes no sense. Spies are not recruited from among prisoners, they are not revolutionary [word indistinct], why do we need spies? Really, why do we need spies?

I remember that the time of Giron was when we did not need spies. Everything they were doing, they would talk about in the streets of Miami, it would appear in the paper, and it would appear everywhere. We knew 90 percent of what was going on before the invasion at Giron. We knew because it was public knowledge. We did not need spies. And now, we have less need for spies. And so these are the things that have been mentioned. And that we are sending common delinquents. We are not going to be so ridiculous as to include someone who has been charged with robbery. This would be discovered in 2 minutes. It would imply a lack of seriousness and a lack of prestige for the revolution. If we say they are prisoners, there are no terrorists nor spies in the group.

But, of course, we do not know what criteria will be used. We do not know if they will accept 10 percent, 5 percent, 90 percent or 100 percent. At the moment we do not even know what criteria will be used. Actually, I really believe, honestly, that it would not matter to us to give you the list. We would not mind giving you the list, why would it bother us? In any case, you will receive it there. But, as I say, I am concerned about the criteria they will be using and what the American authorities will think of the fact that we, and I am sure that if we do publish the list, it would be very strong pressure, and one needs the cooperation of the North American authorities.

As for pressure, we do not have many ways of pressuring them. I have given an example. When they did not want to receive Cubans who had already received passports to go to the United States. When the United States halted their entrance and we reopened Camarioca port. It was a form of pressure, but really, we do not want to resort to pressure. We do not think that it is constructive to do so. Believe me, this is the only reason that we do not give you the list. I hope that the U.S. Government will have a constructive attitude in this matter and that they will truly allow all those to enter who have requested to do so--those who were imprisoned and want to go to the United States as well as this group of 48 prisoners.

So that you know that this thing which we have done, we have done as a gesture. It is a gesture of 40, 48, simply to show that we are speaking seriously and that we are working seriously. It is a gesture. One has to interpret it as a gesture.

[Question in English] Mr President, Peter (Arnet), ASSOCIATED PRESS. There is another matter which is, seems to have harmed the possibility of developing Cuban-American relations, such as certain developments in Africa. Is the Cuban mission in Africa anywhere near completed? And what are the chances of bringing some of your troops home soon?

[Castro] How many questions did he ask me, two or three? In what order does he want me to answer? He asked me about relations first.

[Question] No, I meant that relations are being harmed by the...

[Castro] Well, aren't relations between the United States and us harmed by the presence of U.S. troops in Panama, for instance? The presence of U.S. troops in Greece, in Western Europe, in Japan, the U.S. military bases in dozens of countries? Would that not harm the relations between the United States and us? The United States, for instance, has--and I am not going to speak about NATO--thousands of military specialists in Saudi Arabia. In Iran it has thousands of military specialists. Just imagine if now we were to adopt the stand of telling the United States: If you want your relations with us to improve, you have to withdraw the military personnel and troops that you have there.

But there is something else: The United States has troops in one place where it should not have them and where it has no right to have them, and that is in Cuban territory, in the Guantanamo Naval Base. Just imagine, they have never talked of withdrawing those troops either. But, of course, we do not relate one thing to the other. We flatly refuse to discuss the issue of our solidarity with Africa. Those matters cannot be discussed or negotiated with the U.S. Government, and we will never negotiate them. We will withdraw our personnel when, in our opinion, their presence is no longer required there and always in full agreement with the governments of the countries where the military personnel are found. The only ones with whom we will discuss these problems, the only ones we can discuss them is with them. When our military personnel are someplace in accordance with agreements reached with a government, and the country's government has not violated its commitments, the Cuban Government does not negotiate the honor of that country.

[Question] Yes. I have just one followup question: The United States, as we all know, had troops in Vietnam and still does in Korea. Now they did begin to withdraw those troops as a result of pressure from outside and from inside and they are also trying to pull all their forces out of South Korea. These were specific military commitments with the local governments, and I was just wondering if maybe in Angola or Ethiopia you feel enough advances have been made for you to bring back some troops.

[Castro] Well, I do not know. Comparisons cannot be drawn. I remember when the Korean War began--the government's unilateral decision to send troops to Korea. Besides, the United States was defeated in both places--in Korea and in Vietnam. Now, if the United States, which has maintained troops in South Korea, decides to withdraw those troops we rejoice and applaud it. But we have not thought of telling the United States: Hey, if you want your relations with us to improve, you have to withdraw your troops from Korea. Besides, the United States does not discuss with us its decision to withdraw troops from Korea. I imagine that it discusses that with the South Korean Government. But it does not discuss that with us, nor does it account to us. So why should we have to account to the U.S. Government for our agreements with the governments of Africa or of any country? What we do is absolutely legitimate in the light of international law and in the light of the sovereignty of the peoples.

Furthermore, the United States is the country that has sent the largest number of troops to the largest number of countries in the world. I cannot understand this pretension of "do as I say and not as I do." Who has given the United States the right to be the supreme judge of the universe and to tell other governments what they should or should not do? That what they regard as legitimate for them to do is not legitimate for others to do? We cannot accept that philosophy just because the United States is powerful. We have known that for 20 years. We have been struggling with the United States for 20 years. We already know them and they should know us also.

[Question indistinct]

[Translator in Spanish] Mr President, you have mentioned that the Cuban revolutionary process is irreversible and consolidated. Why do you not allow the Cubans who do not agree with your government to leave Cuba freely?

[Castro] But we are constantly allowing people to leave Cuba, constantly. Many of them leave every year. Of course, we are not interested in encouraging emigration because there is no reason for us to do that. Now, if one compares the situation in the United States with that of Cuba--the United States was the wealthiest country, with the highest standard of living in the world while we were a small country, a poor, underdeveloped country. We had to fight very hard to earn our bread.

And now I am going to ask you one question: Would the U.S. Government allow all the Mexicans who might wish to enter the United States to do so? Would it permit the entrance of all Brazilians who might want to enter the United States? Would it permit the entrance of all Latin Americans into the United States? Would the United States receive all the Haitians who might want to go to the United States? Nonetheless, with us, it adopted a policy of let all Cubans who might want to come do so. (?We were not going to compete) and we said: All those who wish to leave may do so. (?And we ended the conversation.) Of the 6,000 doctors we had, they took 3,000.

Well, but now we have 14,000.

We accepted the challenge, that is, this country accepted the challenge of the United States. Despite its economic wealth, we told all citizens, those who may want to go to the United States to live, with its standard of living [words indistinct]. We accepted the challenge. I think no country had a less restrictive policy than the one Cuba had, because we opened our doors wide open. Not only did we open them, at a certain point we exerted pressure on the United States and we told them: Receive these citizens whom you encouraged to go live in the United States. In general, we have not had a restrictive policy. Of course, we are not anxious to encourage emigration because, well, we also need our population, our technicians. But in general the policy has not been a restrictive one and each year a certain number of persons leave the country. But I am not going to tell you that we are going to fling our doors wide open and launch a campaign and make publicity to encourage emigration, because that might turn into a political instrument, just as it was once against the revolution.

[Question] You say you need your population. Do you fear that many people will leave?

[Castro] No. No, I am not afraid of that, not really.

It is one thing to encourage emigration and quite another to adopt an inflexible policy regarding it. We are demonstrating that right now. The U.S. Government asked us to permit those with dual nationality to leave. Therefore, because someone had a U.S. grandmother, he was allowed to go to the United States. This demonstrates that we are not so restrictive.

There are a number of people here with relatives who are in jail for crimes against the revolution. They want to go to the United States, so we give them the facilities to leave. Normally every year many persons leave. On the contrary, we are more inclined to let people leave than to come in because there are real problems in letting people come in en masse. There are problems with employment, with housing. Therefore, we are not interested in stimulating immigration, but we do not have an inflexible policy.

We are talking about our willingness to discuss matters of family unification, and this implies that a number of persons can unite with their families in the United States within this concept of family reunification. This demonstrates that we have an open attitude.

[Question] I would like to go back to the topic of prisoners. The first group of 48--how were they selected, and also who will determine if they have completed sentences? And the Washington spokesman said that the number would be from 500 to 1,000.

[Castro] Which? Of the ones who were imprisoned?

[Question] Washington announced that the number of prisoners would range from 500 to 1,000 (?that you were willing to release).

[Castro] There are several thousand persons who have been imprisoned. The problems of these persons are solved by us. They are not solved by anyone else. Many of them were released before their sentences were completed.

It has been said that we have 15,000 prisoners. There was a time when we had somewhat more than 15,000 prisoners. The entire Giron brigade was imprisoned, approximately 1,200. (?They increased the number of prisoners approximately fourfold.) We ourselves found a solution to this problem. But I want you to know that the idea of finding a solution through the payment of an indemnization was Cuba's, not the United States'. It was the Government of Cuba. Otherwise they could still be in prison. They could still be imprisoned by all rights and reason. They committed a great crime. They invaded the country organized by the CIA and in the service of a foreign power. That could be punished very severely. Nevertheless, we came up with a formula: We would be paid an indemnification and then we would release them. That was our solution.

When the struggle was most intense here between the United States and Cuba, when the counterrevolution was very strong, there were really more than 15,000. However, the vast majority of those prisoners have been released. Some have gone abroad, but many are free in Cuba. Many are working. Others are without work due to problems I have already explained.

Now, I do not know whether they all want to leave. However, I do not believe that all of them want to leave. I believe that many do not want to leave. They are satisfied with their jobs. However, we do not limit even that to those hundreds. If there are more, those who have difficulties with employment and want to go to the United States, we are willing to allow them to leave.

Let us separate the matter of the prisoners from the matter of those who have been in prison. We have talked and tried to determine the opinion of a number of them. There are several hundred who have relatives in the United States and they want to go the United States. This is the list which we have drafted, but it is not final. It could increase. It is not that we want to send all those who were imprisoned to the United States. However, those who feel it necessary because they have relatives, because they have economic problems, are unemployed or find it difficult to find employment and want to go to the United States--we have no objection to authorizing them to go if the U.S. Government accepts them. However, in regard to that we have not followed a specific criterion. Rather, we have taken into consideration those who have the greatest difficulties or have relatives in the United States. There has been no discrimination against any group in preference to another. We have taken into account those who have relatives in the United States and have some difficulties. This is the criterion we have followed.

Regarding the 48 prisoners, the criteria was to select representative prisoners. There was no special [word indistinct]. It was simply a matter of demonstrating that we were speaking seriously as a gesture toward the persons with whom we have talked.

[Question] It is the number of prisoners?

[Castro] It could have been 58, 40 or 30.

[Question] [Words indistinct] and others who are former prisoners (?who are being given the opportunity to leave Cuba are 100,500)?

[Castro] (?They could be 1,000 or 3,000.) We have not placed a limit on that. I would say that the criterion must be those who need it, those who have relatives in the United States and who have need for it. [Words indistinct] there are some who have relatives abroad. Others, as I explained, (?are rejected). They have a real problem. It is not always easy to find employment for someone who has been punished. Many are working. Many are working. Some do not have employment. Some have difficulties.

I would say that we are not going to tell a man who is on his job and is doing perfectly well with his family: Listen, do you want to go to the United States? We are not going to pressure him into leaving for the United States. We are not going to expel him from Cuba. They have a right to be here. We are not going to expel anyone or to pressure anyone. Now, in the case of those who have relatives and need to go, perhaps they have a better opportunity to find jobs in Florida than here, but we do not object either.

[Indistinct mixture of voices]

[Question] Mr President, you said a few minutes ago that there was an average of 3,000 prisoners.

[Castro] Not an average, approximately.

[Question] Approximately, 3,000 prisoners, 400 of them...

[Castro] No, imprisoned for crimes against the revolution.

[Question] And that some 400 remain.

[Castro] No, for crimes against the revolution, approximately 3,000 remain in prison. I said that there was a time when there were more than 15,000.

[Question] But at this time the figure is approximately 3,000.

[Castro] Approximately 3,000. It is a little bit more.

[Question] If released would they face difficulties in finding jobs, if they had relatives in the United States?

[Castro] In general, we make sure that everyone who goes into the streets has a job. Of course, it is not always easy to find a job which those persons like. Now, it is not always easy for us to find a job for them, because there is an employment system in Cuba. Therefore, we cannot avoid there being--in a factory, for example, or in a government office, or anywhere--rejection of them when they go to apply for a job--they are always asked for references--and they say that they were in prison for crimes against the revolution. It is not easy. It is not easy for us.

However, many of them are working, for there have been persons of all types, some of them with skills. Some of them had no skills and they acquired them, particularly in construction. There are many employed in construction as skilled workers, as skilled workers who acquired those skills.

[Question] This rejection which they may face upon seeking work, will it not be detrimental to them in maintaining themselves?

[Castro] That is why our position on those in that situation, including those who have relatives in the United States, is that we are willing to facilitate their departure for the United States. And as for those who are in prison, as they are released after having served their sentence or for whatever reason, we have no objection to their leaving for the United States or anywhere they want to go. We have the case of the 48. That is, undoubtedly, undoubtedly, and this is logical. [sentence as heard] We have been struggling for many years. Perhaps you see things from a different point of view. You are there, but we are here. Things have occurred one way there, and in another here.

The revolution is a revolution of the masses, of the militant, combative masses who have been educated, let us say, in 20 years of political, ideological and other struggle. Logically, we make an effort--we make an effort to see that those who leave prison obtain jobs. But what can we do? Life is life. For those who do not want to do certain types of work, are we to put them in a government office? Logically, those from the minister on down to the most modest office worker object to this and become angry. There are many types of restricted jobs. They are not accessible. Then there are other types of jobs for which one has to be trained.

[Question] Mr President, if these people have these difficulties in finding jobs after having been convicted and then released after serving their sentence [words indistinct]

[Castro] Well, so far this has not been the case in the United States. Actually, they can find a job, but I am not going to say that they will find a secure job. Perhaps after living there they may ask to come back here. That is an option open to them. We will continue to struggle. I would say that at least 75 percent of those who have been released may be working. I am citing an arbitrary figure. It may be a little less, it may be 70 percent, or it may be 80. It is my impression--I would have to take a poll or research what percentage--that most of them are working, because, even while they were in prison, those who wanted to work were given the opportunity to do so. Moreover, they were paid. They were paid. They received the same wages as a free worker, exactly the same wages. I believe that Cuba is the only country in the world--I do not know if this is so, there may be others--but we have paid those who were working because of crimes against the revolution. Common criminals who work receive wages.

Many of them continued to work in their former fields of endeavors. But many of them had no trade; they acquired a trade. They became masons, carpenters, builders, and later they continued as masons if they wanted to. We did not force them. We did not say: You have to continue working in this field. Those who wanted to do so continued working in that field, or in something else, in another job, because there is the question of employment. But there is employment. There are jobs in agriculture, in the cane fields. But not everyone wants to cut cane or go over there, to your part of the country to build a school. We cannot force them to build a school there. There are people who have several job opportunities, but they do not like them. They cannot find the job they want. It is a relative matter. There is work for everyone in Cuba--in agriculture, in construction, in everything. But we do not force them. We do not say: Well, you have to go to Baracoa; you have to go to Moa. There are some labor sectors in which it is easy to find jobs. But if a man is a typist, then it is more difficult. A job in an office is another matter. But I can tell you that I remember cases of doctors who have been in jail and later have been working in hospitals, because we have given jobs to the great majority, the great majority. But not all of them are working. A problem for them is also a problem for us.

[indistinct question]

[Castro] This has helped and as I have already told you, the great majority is working. Our program has definitely been a solution for the country. And no one has gained anything by giving a man a very long sentence of 15 or 20 years. They did not gain anything, nor did we. Of course, the idea was that they wanted bad people here. There was to be an invasion of Cuba and those prisoners were going to be released by the United States. None of that occurred. [as heard] We prepared the means for them to be released. If one includes those who participated in the Bay of Pigs, over 14,000 persons have been released--a great number, the great majority, practically 80 percent of them. All these figures which are bandied about are invented, ridiculous. a real (?abuse).

[indistinct question]

[Castro] If any of the people who are in prison serve their sentences or we grant them an early release, and they desire to stay here and they find a job which suits them, we are quite happy for them to remain. We do not forbid anyone to stay here. It is their right. I believe that we must have assimilated, without exaggeration, at least 75 percent of them.

That is the least. I would have to dig up more precise information in order to give exact figures, but according to what I know and hear, I estimate that it is not less than 75 percent. There could be a 25 percent remainder but there are only 2,000 or 3,000 of them. I cannot give you the figures. But it is among these persons that we in general [Castro does not complete thought]--there could be some working but we cannot say that he has assimilated, that he is discontent, has his family there and wants to go. Well even if he is employed we give him facilities. We are not going to pressure him into staying. But this is a matter which has been decided. This thing we are talking about has been decided. This refers to those who left already, the former prisoners.

[Question] Mr President, in his reply Mr (Annet Ducres) addressed this matter. But I would like to explore it a little further. About a year ago the office of U.S. affairs opened here in Havana, giving the impression that relations had taken a turn for the better. And later you said that the war between the United States and Cuba was over. Then came the criticisms in the United States as a result of your African policy. In your 26 July speech you were very critical of the United States. What I would like to know is if United States-Cuba relations have bogged down as a result of the African conflict. In other words, who will have the responsibility of making the next move?

[Castro] Undoubtedly relations between Cuba and the United States do not depend on us. It is not that we do not want them. They depend on the United States, because they are maintaining a strict economic blockage of Cuba. I do not want to use any adjectives to describe the blockage because I would have to employ strong adjectives. Using the best terms I can say that it is contrary to the U.S. liberal economic concept which defends free trade. It is contrary to international law. It is a discriminatory policy, a hard, aggressive policy directed against us. It is an attempt to prevent the development of a people. It is an attempt to create difficulties and problems. It is quite discriminatory and exasperating.

For example, the United States trades with China and the socialist countries, but not with Cuba, perhaps because Cuba is small and is not a very important market. I do not know what the moral reasons are for it, but it seems it is not merely an ideological matter. The United States discriminates especially against us. Perhaps because we are a country in this hemisphere. Perhaps because we were the first country to break away from U.S. tutelage.

Perhaps because it thinks that we set a bad example and other countries must be discouraged. Perhaps it is an instrument of pressure perhaps because we must think it is an instrument for blackmail. It is a sort of dagger at our throats demanding concessions from Cuba. We have not decreed any blockade against the United States. If tomorrow the United States wants to buy sugar, tobacco, nickel, whatever it wants, we have no blockade against it. Yet the United States has a blockade against us.

I believe that the fundamental obstacle to Cuban-U.S. relations is the blockade against us. Also the Guantanamo base. It is imposed on us. A solution must be found to this problem. But the blockade is the fundamental obstacle to our relations. Relations between the United States and Cuba cannot improve beyond a certain point--beyond what it has reached today--if this blockade is not completely eliminated.

For us it makes no sense either. Even when the selling of medicines to us was discussed, a ridiculous little list of medicines was drafted. Do you know what it means for a country with a developed technology to ban the sale of medicines to another country, when this could save a life? How can we talk about human rights? Some of the U.S. policies are like a joke. What about human rights when you refuse to sell medicines to Cuba to save human lives and alleviate human suffering? It is really absurd [words indistinct].

It is not a matter of dismantling a little bit of the blockade today and more tomorrow. The blockade must be completely and totally eliminated. Otherwise, relations will not improve. However, we must say that following the Carter administration there has been an improvement. We have arrived at this point. Carter made some gestures. He returned to Americans the right to visit Cuba. He lifted the ban. He suspended the U-2 flights. Undoubtedly he has made some gestures. I would say that he put an end to the policy of support to terrorism and counterrevolutionary activities. From our point of view Carter's attitude has been positive in regards to Cuba. We have said it and admit it. But there is one point; there is a knife at Cuba's throat. It is called economic blockade. This knife must be withdrawn. Otherwise we cannot negotiate. I cannot negotiate. I cannot negotiate with someone holding a dagger. We are not willing to negotiate that way.

[Unidentified voice] You are practically saying that you have gone as far as you can go and now it is up to the U.S. Government.

[Castro] Yes.

[Question] [Words indistinct] going back to the question regarding emigres. You have [words indistinct] Antonio Maceo Brigade and the group [passage indistinct].

[Castro] I have always insisted that some contacts, relations and group visits have worked. We realized that they were not our enemies, that they were not waging war on us or promoting terrorism. I said that there were many factors which influenced our decision. They had helped some but we had never arrived at a point where a brigade composed of youths of Cuban descent wanted to come. When I first heard about it--I could not tell you when--I heard from some comrades that said there was the possibility of a brigade coming to Cuba. It was a strange thing. Would they be understood? The first thing we wondered was if people would understand it. How will people react? Will there be a hostile atmosphere? This worried us. Will people understand? They see a brigade where there has been such great antagonism. Well it was a test and we accepted it. From the first moment they met with everybody here, everywhere. They also met with many leaders. I met with them too.

I have been observing that all the people, the political cadres, the leaders, all those who met with them were very impressed, moved. It was really thrilling. During the few days they were here, they worked well. They helped to build a social project. And an atmosphere began to be created, at all times quite favorable to them. Towards the end, it was an event. One of the things that impressed me most. Let me tell you. Now the World Youth Festival was held. Nearly 20,000 young people from various countries came to it. The brigade representatives were there also. They went back there again. They have won a sort of recognition, sympathy on the part of all the people. I think this has had great value for ourselves, in seeing those problems, those realities, because those youngsters were an example that they have been... They are not responsible for the drama experienced by their parents, the drama of the revolution. They were children, 5, 3, 2 years old, when they were taken to the United States and not all of them adapted. I would say that there is another factor: They have helped us understand somewhat the problems of what we call the community. Some have called our attention that we employ new terms and we (?began) to use new terms. All of us here used terms, unfairly, in referring to the emigres. We used terms like stateless persons, worms and others. I was the first one. I used them. I do not deny it. I believe they were unfair generic terms giving the idea that all the Cubans [abroad] were making counterrevolution or carrying out terrorism. I believe the terms were used as a result of the heat of the struggle and passions [words indistinct].

I was the first to coin the term community and I plan to continue using it because I do not think there is any sense to continue using a generic term that is pejorative in referring to an entire community. These young people helped us. When we used these pejorative terms we were including these youngsters of the brigade and all the Cuban people. And they also helped us understand the problems of the community. And there is something we have been noting and it is the real fact that it seems to us that the Cuban community, like all communities (?who find themselves) in other nations, tries to keep its national identity, tries to keep its language and other things. It wants its children to speak the language. It tries to maintain its beliefs, customs, culture, habits, festivals. And we are aware that in the Cuban community abroad, above all in the United States, because those in Latin areas speak the same language and do not have that problem, but the Cuban community abroad is making an effort to maintain its identity. And I say that we view this with sympathy.

It does not matter who they are, whether an exile Cuban millionaire or a Cuban emigre worker because among Cuban emigrees there are many, a large number of workers. A large number of the emigrees make a hard living working in factories. Others have other livelihoods of every type. But it is not a case of a class question. It is a national problem. We see a community that is trying to retain its national identity and that of course arouses the solidarity--should I use another word?--arouses our solidarity, our sympathy. It does not matter that they do not sympathize with the revolution, what pleases us is to know, see and confirm that the Cuban community tries to retain its language, its essence, its Cuban national identity. And this, I repeat, arouses our sympathy and solidarity even though they do not sympathize with the revolution. Because in the end we support all the communities that try to retain their identity. We support Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Latin Americans, blacks, Indians, the minority groups which are struggling for their interests. We support them. Why not the Cubans also? Why view Cubans as an enemy, counterrevolutionary mass by generalizing.

It is this angle of the problem. The contacts we have had, primarily the many contacts with the youngsters, have been impressive. There is even a documentary film on the lives of... [leaves sentence unfinished] I know of many people who cry when they see it. Well, there is no doubt about the nationalist feelings for Cuba.

Essentially, we think there is something, something you can see. To see the Cuban community trying to defend its national identity and we sympathize with [illegible] of something we need, but logically, it creates an effect; it creates a very deep impression. And the youngsters created a deep impression among the people.

As a result of the brigade's visit, criticism might have been made against the government, the party, everybody. (?But there was no criticism; the reaction was the very opposite. And then when they came to the festival, [words indistinct]. Everybody received them everywhere with [word indistinct]. Then after this, other initiatives followed, like the visit organized, I think by a church. That was the visit of 50 people who came here. Do not think that this is easy. The people must understand this. We do not usually do anything behind our people's backs or contrary to the feelings of our people. Everything we do always has to be agreed on; if it is not understood, then it cannot be done. I think the young people have helped a lot to have this understood. They have even helped take and think up these steps and bring up these points. I think they have played a very important role. They were not the only ones.

This is not the only factor, there have been many other factors. But there are new convictions and I would say that regarding this, one would have to take into account the U.S. Government's contribution. Because due to the points I mentioned earlier, a different atmosphere was created. So that is the U.S. Government's indirect contribution.

[Question] I think that of all the problems concerning the Cuban community in the United States which have been mentioned here, above all, there is a new atmosphere [words indistinct] this matter of the Cubans living in the United States who visited with their relatives here. (?I know some people) in the United States who have been waiting (?10 years) for a visa to come see if they can find their parents, who (?are old or perhaps dead. [words indistinct] something in the near future [words indistinct] in connection with the people who are waiting to come. Because the number of Cubans who wish to come and visit and are waiting [words indistinct] increases every day.

[Castro] Look, I can assure you that every year many persons [words indistinct] like the cases you have mentioned. Not only do people from here go there, but their relatives [words indistinct] constantly. I know of many such cases. This happens routinely. But of course, this is a somewhat complicated process. Here we had a problem which was almost an exception, in which there are justified reasons of that type, you understand? The main difficulty we were facing was that there was not a single visa. Who could give a visa in the United States? The visa always had to be sought in Mexico, Jamaica or Canada. There was no airline.

One had to go from Canada to Jamaica to come to Havana. Sometimes in order to come to Cuba one had to travel to Europe. In practice, all these things turned out to be very difficult--both the legal paperwork and the route to come to Cuba. Now that there is an interests office in the United States, there are more facilities. Take the matter of passports. They were overdue. Nonetheless, the interests office has been working on the renewal of passports [word indistinct]. I would say that that is part of a prospect that did not exist 2 years ago. So, it is all a matter of airlines.

Regarding the airlines, I have heard an air route was going to be established. There was talk of that some time ago. I think that terrorists threatened the airline that if they flew in here, they would blow up the plane. The airline got scared. I do not know if they are being threatened now.

I have heard talk that a plane is to come. All this creates more possibilities and makes things easier. But as I said earlier, all this is still an exception. When I say this is something of interest--and you have confirmed this--I am referring to something as a right rather than as an exception. This is something we are willing to discuss. It is one of the problems we are willing to analyze and to find a solution for.

[Question indistinct]

[Castro] Well, we have to have a bit of patience. We cannot burn down [the defenses]. Undoubtedly this will take months because all this we have mentioned has to be demonstrated. Now you prepare yourselves to hear all kinds of opinions in the heart of the community and statements of all kinds--including attacks, criticisms [words indistinct] for the serious crime of coming here. You, newsmen included--the Cuban newsmen, not the Americans--the U.S. newsmen come with some frequency. Perhaps some people will come up with the idea that it is a crime for Cuban newsmen to come here. There have been all types of misunderstandings during this period. There are some people who have turned counter-revolution into a business. They have been living off this and they do not want to work. They do not want to work and would rather live off collections and fundraising. They have become used to this. There was a time when the CIA supported tens of thousands of them. Then all this fell apart. But there are still some people who want to continue living off that.

I tell you: We cannot rush. We have to continue by stages. I have set forth our positions regarding this problem very clearly. Above all, I have tried to clarify any confusion that may have existed and to explain the reason. I think we have to be very patient. We all have to be very patient. If we are persevering, we are willing to do just that. We are not going to change [that]. If we abide by a policy, we abide by a policy.

[Question] Commander, [words indistinct] Miami NEWS. Mr President, going back to the case of Hubert Matos, during the festival that was held here, there was a tribunal and some of the testimony accused [interrupted]

[Castro] Were you at the tribunal?

[Question] No, I heard it over the radio. [Words indistinct] the Puerto Rican who was held prisoner in the United States, was let go because he had cancer. What is said is that this is the same as the Matos case, and that there might even be others, that their health should be taken into account.

[Castro] As far as I know, Hubert Matos' health is perfect. He is fine. He is perfectly all right, which shows that there is no lack of medical care here. In general, the health of prisoners here is good.

[Question] We have heard that certain Haitian refugees have arrived in Cuba. How do you treat them?

[Castro] Those refugees, as a general rule, get to Cuba by accident. They leave in a boat. It is not that they leave for Cuba; they are trying to get to the United States. Then they travel and since they go by Cuban coasts, sometimes they run aground or have problems with their motors. They are always cared for, given medical treatment and food, and cared for until they can return to their country.

[Question] To go back to Haiti or go back to sea?

[Castro] Well, we cannot send them to the United States because we would be violating [words indistinct] and cannot send them to the United States. They remain here until they decide, the United States will not take them, rather... It is commonly [illegible] people who travel looking for jobs. They are taken care of until they can return to Haiti and organize their travel again because we cannot encourage here a trip to the United States from Cuba.

[Question] Have any of them remained here?

[Castro] I could not tell you. It would not be good for us to encourage illegal entry into our country. So I could not tell you if some have requested to stay here, because I have no knowledge of those details--if some have asked to remain here or if some have remained. I believe that the criterion should be to facilitate their return because acceptance of illegal entry could encourage illegal immigration.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Commander, it would be very interesting to talk with your leadership about, for example, the situation of the Yugoslav stand at the [youth] festival, and with the youth on Africa, or about your position on the [words indistinct] movements, such as, let us say, the liberation [movement] of Eritrea or that in the Ogaden Desert. There is a topic which we know that you are interested in, and which is of interest to the readers of ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, the newspaper for which I work--specifically, that large numbers of Cubans who did not leave during the revolution, but left before. You stated that many of them contributed to the revolution. The [words indistinct] of these Cubans, the sons of the Cuban exiles, which you have just mentioned and you stated at the beginning of this conversation that it was not just that the North Americans and others who are not Cubans were allowed to enter [Cuba] and that they [the Cubans] did not have the same chance to enter. Finally, can you tell us if beginning now are the doors open to tourism to visit one's relatives?

[Castro] If there has been any indication of that, no decision has been made yet. Those were subjects that we can discuss because if we have behaved that way, it is because of the background situation, when certain restrictions were established. We know that it is a topic of interest for the community, but it is one of the topics that we are willing to discuss in order to find solutions. This has not been solved yet, the restrictions still do exist and no decision has been made on that.

[Question] And regarding movements such as that of Eritrea and that in the Ogaden Desert and the Yugoslav stand in the festival, which is to let Africans conduct their own liberation struggle?

[Castro] We are pleased that the Africans are conducting their own liberation struggle. We are against South Africa's invasion and subjugation of other peoples. We are against racism, against attempts to divide Ethiopia. We support integrity. We believe that domestic problems should be resolved. We have cooperated with African countries in the face of (?foreign) aggression and not in regard to domestic problems.

[Question] Nevertheless, Yugoslavia believes the same thing about people's liberation, but that when [interrupted]

[Castro] Pardon me, but you are talking about something I know nothing about. You are talking about the festival [interrupted]

[Question] I understand they marched in the festival with a slogan that directly implicated liberation movements?

[Castro] You are talking to me about a slogan in support of the African [brief break in transmission] South Africa, in the Sahara, wherever there is an African liberation movement, we support them. We are totally in agreement. I see no contradiction.

[Question] Regarding the Eritrean movement, the movement...

[Castro] We see the Eritrean movement as an internal problem of Ethiopia. We have publicly stated our position on this, when Mengistu visited here. We are in favor of political solutions, and the nationalities problem in Ethiopia is part of the political solution within the principle of Marxism-Leninism preserving Ethiopia's integrity. We oppose anything that attempts to divide Ethiopia. We are in favor of Ethiopia's revolution, unity and integrity. In addition, I am not the only one who agrees with this.

All African countries agree with this because one of the agreements of the OAU was to maintain the borders inherited from colonialism.

This is so because, if there were to be a revision of borders in Africa, it would be disastrous. There are still many tribal situations in Africa. If a tribe is on the border, one part is in one country and the other in another. If we were to begin to revise all those borders, it would be the casue of endless conflicts.

Very wisely, the African countries agreed, as a basic principle of the OAU, to maintain the borders which they had inherited from colonialism. That is why, in the case of Ethiopia, we were opposed to the occupation of Ethiopia, to the invasion of Ethiopia. The regular army of a neighboring country entered Ethiopia to wrest two-thirds its territory from it. Moreover, Ogaden has belonged to Ethiopia for hundreds of years.

Now, there are other cases. For example, there is the case of the border between the United States and Mexico. As you know, the United States took away over half of Mexico's territory by force during a war. Millions of persons of Mexican descent live there. I say to you that the Mexicans have a much better right to claim that territory which was wrested from them by the United States than Somalia has to claim Ogaden.

I ask myself what the United States would do if the Mexicans had invaded Texas, Arizona and all those states to recover their territory. Do you think they would have taken the same position as with Ethiopia? But it was the United States which encouraged the aggression against Ethiopia, because on 15 July--and this is well known--of 1977, the U.S. Government informed the Somalia Government that it would supply it with weapons. On 23 July the Somalia Army launched the attack on Ethiopia.

In the case of Eritrea, when the Eritreans were fighting against the emperor, no one helped them. When a revolution occured in Ethiopia, a radical and deep-seated revolution, then the reactionary Arab countries, those people who had never shown any interest in Eritrea offered help to the Eritrean movement to divide Ethiopia.

[Question] Were they not receiving help from the USSR?

[Castro] I do not know if the USSR was helping them. We gave them some help when they were obviously playing a revolutionary role. Once they assumed a counterrevolutionary role, we could not help because, from the moment that the revolution began in Ethiopia, all that interested the Ethiopians was the development and consolidation of the revolutionary process.

And those who had been helping became interested in destroying the Ethiopian revolution. There was a change in character. Now, we have absolutely no participation in that conflict.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Santiago Carrillo. He says that at this time the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat is unnecessary. [words indistinct]

[Castro] The dictatorship of the proletariat here is the dictatorship of all the people because it consists of the people, of all workers. Now, we do not renounce any of the classic concepts of Marxism; we continue to adhere to them. This is not the time or the place to discuss the positions of Carrillo or the positions of other parties. We respect the positions of others. But if you want to know about Cuba, we defend those principles truly and completely. We are in complete agreement with them. Our experience confirms those principles, and I think that the experience of the world confirms them.

It is not up to us to tell the Spaniards how to apply Marxism and what they need, that is their affair. That is the concern of other parties, of other (?governments), just as it is not up to anyone else to tell us how we must interpret and apply it.

Now we are discussing other subjects. [passage indistinct containing reference to Yugoslavia and Romania] we accept the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the historical and classical principles. Our experience has confirmed their validity. Some day, it will be necessary to analyze all this because we have withstood. Why have we withstood? How have we withstood for 20 years? Had we been wrong, we would have failed and they would have crushed us. Therefore, our life and our historic experience has confirmed the power of those principles.

Now we say: [Marxism-Leninism] is not a dogma. It has to be interpreted, and every country interprets it in accordance with its specific conditions. And that is what we did.

[Question] That is why I was asking if after 20 years (?you still support them).

[Castro] Absolutely. I am fully in agreement with those principles.

[Question] Mr President, regarding what you said formerly about your government's position regarding the Cuban community, [words indistinct] is there a government agency that is specifically in charge of these efforts?

[Castro] Not really.

[Indistinct question about terrorism, with mention of terrorism in Nicaragua]

[Castro] Has there not been terrorism against Venezuela, against Mexico, and against the Chilean movement?

[Question] [Words indistinct] denied any participation by the Cuban Government in the terrorist activities of the Armed Forces of Liberation. This means that your government was not in contact with... [interrupted]

[Castro] My government has nothing to do with terrorist activities.

[Question] The FBI has mentioned that the quality of the propaganda of the liberation forces (indicates it) was printed [words indistinct].

[Castro] That is false. Moreover, the Puerto Ricans go and come freely from Puerto Rico. They have facilities to do so. They have many more facilities [than we do]. First of all, how could we send that printed material? From a practical viewpoint, it is not feasible; from the political viewpoint, it would be idiotic for us to do it.

Third, when we have a policy, we have a policy. When we say that we do not do something, we do not do it. And we do not say one thing in public and do something else in private. And I say that we have nothing to do with it. The FBI can come up with many things.

They can make many mistakes. [words indistinct] I think the CIA makes even more mistakes. But we have not participated in any terrorist activity. Absolutely none, with propaganda or anything else. And sometimes I think that because we have at times spoken in the United Nations on the Puerto Rico case, [words indistinct]. We have absolutely nothing to do with terrorist activities.

[Question indistinct]

[Castro] I think that we promoted this right in the meetings which took place in Barbados. The correct thing to have done was to turn it over to Cuba. This would have been the correct thing. However, there were pressures possibly. These people did not act on their own. These people were linked to the CIA. I do not know if you read the news. You must have read about the trial of the terrorists in Miami. These terrorists belong to the same group. The terrorists said that the attack which took place in October was planned in May. This came after Angola when the United States made very aggressive statements about Cuba. The terrorists said they had visited the White House. They also said they had contacted CIA agents who had worked with them formerly. They also said that in some of these CIA contacts they were told where weapons were buried and that they dug them up. All this came out in the Miami trial. They said it themselves in May. These people had relations with the CIA. Also, the U.S. Government encouraged these activities at least indirectly in Barbados. The terrorists themselves stated that they had visited the White House. They said this before a North American judge. They made contacts with CIA agents who had worked with them before they dug up weapons at places where the CIA said they were buried.

These are the operating procedures of the CIA. It has many different ways of operating. It does not always operate directly. This was proven at the U.S. Senate investigation, clearly proven. If we had said what was proven at the Senate, they would have called it propaganda. Yet only some 10 percent of the CIA activities were revealed there.

[Question indistinct]

[Castro] The judges and the tribunals know that the attack was fully proven. Furthermore, this group not only carried out the attack against the Cuban plane, it also attacked Venezuelan planes in Miami and launched [words indistinct]. We have all the evidence of all that, documents, letters from [Orlando] Bosch, instructions from Bosch to his group and instructions to sabotage the Venezuelan airlines. These terrorist groups, raised in impunity, thought they were a power, believed they could intimidate all governments. Now you have another very famous case, the Letelier case. This same group placed the bomb which killed Letelier and the North American woman who was with him. This group was hired by Pinochet, Somoza and others.

[Question] (?What) proof do you, does the Cuban Government have on operations carried out by Orlando Bosch in all of these things?

[Castro] The Bosch affair was proved by the Venezuelans [words indistinct] from the very first moments of the investigations the participation by [words indistinct] was discovered. I am referring to the evidence, the Venezuelan Government has all the evidence (?written) by Bosch. I am referring to the evidence of the instructions that he gave to his group from prison.

[Question] But is there not something that the Cuban Government...[interrupted]

[Castro] Well, we, we have had similar types of evidence and we have sent it to the Venezuelan Government. It was not that important because all of this was already known. But why publish it here? But there are letters written from Venezuelan prisons giving instructions to his (?group). Well we have some evidence, but whenever there was something about terrorist activities which would affect the Venezuelan Government we informed them about it.

[Question indistinct]

[Castro] [Words indistinct] I say it for them, not for myself. I understand and I believe that if this interview is prolonged, it might become too boring. [words indistinct].

[Question] I do not think that this question will demand a long answer. I am sure that you will understand the interest of the Cuban newsmen for their colleagues who are imprisoned for political reasons. In essence, is there any possibility that the dozen or so political prisoners who are newsmen are included in the 48, or as you have said that this group does not have to be in the 49 but that [words indistinct].

[Castro] I think that you must remember the things that we said we were willing to discuss with the community.

[Question] Following this same point, are there some few [words indistinct] are there a few political prisoners who are sick, in hospitals here in jail in Cuba?

[Castro] There are always sick people needing medical attention. This happens frequently in the street, in prison and everywhere in spite of the best medical attention.

[Question] For humanitarian reasons, since we are entering this phase, is there the possibility that these could be included among the first groups?

[Castro] Well, then why those who got sick in August and not those who got sick in May? And not those who got sick in November? I do not think that they will get sick. I already said that this meeting was not for humanitarian reasons and I explained that this was done as a gesture. The gesture did not have that type [humanitarian] of criteria. And I do not think that we should change what we have done. There are other possibilities which we have not mentioned here.

[Question] My last question is also a short one. (Rita Casals) spoke about the Antonio Maceo Brigade. Is it possible for Cubans, even if they do not symphatize--Cubans of the community abroad--that even if they do not support the Cuban revolution [word indistinct] could those who would like to come and visit their relatives do so?

[Castro] This is another matter. These are matters of interest to the community.

Moreover, I think that in the case of the 50 who came nobody asked them whether or not they liked the revolution. It would be absurd. It would make no sense.

[Azcuy] When I return to Miami can I tell the Cubans there that in the near future there will be talks which will open the doors of Cuba to exiles and that they can come back to Cuba to see their grandmoters, aunts, and so forth.

[Castro] You cannot say that because we will not need talks if you go back and say that.

[Question] But your invitation indicated that you would accept those Cubans.

[Castro] No. We said that we have a broad attitude, that we are willing to discuss broadly all matters that are of interest to the Cuban community.

[Question indistinct]

[Castro] Well, this is the first time in 20 years, and I explained the reasons for it. I could tell you after we talk, after we arrange how to conduct the talks and then talk. But I believe that there is a possibility, a good possibility.

[Question] Commander, on the same subject, in view of the sympathy generated by the youths of the brigade, could this be taken as a model or an example of the type of persons who could make up the group with which talks would be held?

[Castro] Not necessarily, because I think it would be quite restricted. For example, I would say that I would like there to be a representative of the brigade. I would like there to be people like Espinoza, for example. We would like this. And we would also like people who have been willing to look for solutions, for some time it seemed as if they were alone in the desert. But it cannot include such persons exclusively. It has to be broader, more representative. I said that it could not be those who had positions of responsibility in the leadership of the counterrevolutionary factions. It must be very broad. It must include, but not necessarily be limited exclusively to, those persons.

[Question] Could they come from the working classes--teachers, and so forth?

[Castro] The working class, professionals, the broader the better, with broad representation, because if we can speak of representation, who can acquire representation. And if one speaks about persons of the community who are representative.

[Several voices simultaneously]

[Question] Commander, what are the conditions or the backing which these persons should have for these talks to begin immediately?

[Castro] I believe that I set minimum conditions: that they not be involved in the leadership of counterrevolutionary factions. We said that we would not talk with the counterrevolutionaries, but with the community. For us it is enough, enough that they be representative [representativas] persons, without being the representatives [representantes] because no one can say that he or she represents the community. This would create problems because everyone would say that he is the representative. We have expressed our position of dialog. We have not proposed the utopian idea of talking with the representatives. It is enough for us if there is a group of persons who are representative in some way. I do not know if it would include only those groups which you mentioned or the Antonio Maceo brigade, or Espinoza or another group. I believe that those persons have made an effort and have the legitimate right to be included, but it should not be limited to those persons, because then it would not be representative.

I say that this has not been arranged. We have spoken with some persons. But it is not arranged in any way, because we have not set up a method for doing it. But the basic idea is to start with a group of persons. It does not have to be famous persons, but persons who are well known, or who represent something but not all persons who represent something, because they number 100,000. For us a group is enough, with the understanding that those people will express matters that are of concern to the community. We are prepared to discuss these matters with those people, not as representatives, but as persons who are going to voice matters of concern to them. If they are representative they can more or less address matters.

We are not going to ask anything of them. We are not asking for anything. They are not going to commit the community to anything. Actually, they are going to voice the problems which concern them and analyze them, the things which are of concern to the community.

We will organize this with the community, with members of the community, but not with the U.S. Government.

[Question indistinct]

[Castro] I think we have to work on that and think about that. Let us wait and see what the opinion of the community is. That is the first thing one has to wait for. Some will be in favor, some will be against. Then we can see how it can be set up. But I am expressing our decision and our willingness to do it. However, we cannot dare to say that it will happen tomorrow. The sooner the better, but I know we have to be patient. We have to be patient. Things cannot be resolved overnight, or in 30 days.

Conditions have been created and can be used constructively, positively. This implies a recognition of the existence of the community, a recognition that the community exists and that we are willing to speak with this community, but not through its representatives--which would be utopian. It would be impossible. It would not be practical.

[Several voices simultaneously]

[Castro] Some may agree, and some may disagree. I believe it would seem absurd to me to allow this opportunity to be lost. This would not harm the community. It is of benefit to it. It is a gesture of recognition that the community has interests and concerns, and of our willingness to discuss them. It would be absurd for there to be people who say no. We are not gaining anything by this. This is not business. We are just conforming with a principle. And I say, we are not acting according to a plan or a business. It is a matter of policy. We believe that this is the policy that should be applied and clearly explain what we are or are not doing.

[Question] I know that the details are not clear and that probably [interrupted].

[Castro] I do not know myself if the Antonio Maceo Brigade wants to participate in this. I say that we would like them to. I do not know who wants to participate in it.

[Question] But I believe that many [words indistinct] questions, I believe that many questions which the community will ask will be precisely [words indistinct], I foresee them along two lines. One of them deals with the concrete implementation, what steps should be taken and how should they be taken, this is the question that [words indistinct] to ask here. And the second question is, [words indistinct] we have been accused of being agents of imperialism, I have had this experience. At these moments in the brigade itself, although the brigade does not have any [words indistinct] and political [words indistinct] it was one of the questions, that the assumption emerged that to be a member of the brigade one has to be a Cuban sympathizer, and that the only requirement is that one must be young [words indistinct] and that many have taken part in [words indistinct] It appears to me that the second concern that all people who are interested in participating in these conversations will have is that they will be immediately accused of being [words indistinct] they will try to [words indistinct] I believe that these two things will have an influence on possible answers on part of the community. And I would like you to comment on these things. I believe that at least [words indistinct] firmer details to calm the anxiety which will result from this news which you will be taking back, so that they do not [words indistinct] that maybe to clear up some of this for example.

Is it possible for something like this, that maybe one month from now, a month and a half, some months from now. I do not know. I do not have a definite time period [in mind] to have a meeting of 10 or 15 people to talk about how these people could [words indistinct] some organization, something else [words indistinct] the brigade, or those family reunification committees in Spain [words indistinct] a committee to improve relations [words indistinct] there are a series of things, in addition to things which I have mentioned. Well, I believe that some people from these organizations [words indistinct] but how will this be taken into account?

[Castro] I agree that these people who have been mentioned should be taken into account, because they have truly been struggling for something. And when there is a chance that something definite can be accomplished, there is a possibility it may be carried out. But it should not be formed and I think it would not be convenient if it were formed exclusively by those persons. If we are demanding in this...we understand the present situation. We are dealing with this as realists. A group that has specific characteristics, that is capable of expressing what the community is concerned about. [as heard] I think it is very important to avoid sensationalism. Overoptimism, for people to think that everything is going to be very easy, that it can be solved immediately--this should be avoided. It will truly take months. It can be no other way. You know that we have many activities to carry out, a lot of work to do, because in order to arrange this, it will take some months. It will take 2, 3 (? years) until we can talk to the group. We cannot hurry. We have to move slowly, precisely. One goes further at a slower pace. Moreover, I reiterate the idea that we have to avoid sensationalism and spectacular things and the idea that it can be easy. We have to do the essential.

I think that the coming steps should be taken discreetly so that they will not hinder the implementation of this idea. We must proceed with calm and patience without being discouraged. It is logical that we are doing something fair and constructive. Some will understand it, others will not. Some will think it is a great plan or something to that effect. You know how things are with the community [words indistinct] if we were to set other requirements, then we would complicate things more. There would [words indistinct] representative, they would have to be elected in elections [words indistinct] we are trying to simplify and facilitate them. If we were to set other requirements an enormous problem would come up. We do not want anything of the sort to happen. We want to ease matters, and I believe that the next steps to be taken should be taken discreetly. [words indistinct] But pay attention to this. Work calmly and with discretion, because we are the ones who could cause difficulties. We could place requirements that would be impossible to comply with but we are not doing this. It should be a group with which we can come to an understanding, which is representative [words indistinct] if we were too demanding this would never take place. Is that clear?

[Question] [Words indistinct] in conclusion, I would like to ask something on which I have a little doubt. I understand that a group that was not satisfactory, that there would always be the possibility for it to [words indistinct].

[Castro] I would say that in a certain sense we are asking for a group in which we can have a certain amount of confidence, not that they be our followers, nothing of the sort. They do not even have to be sympathizers. We are not talking about this. They have to have a seriousness. They have to be people who are representative or we cannot talk. We must all work.

[Question] What is your opinion of the Nicaraguan situation? What kind of help will Cuba offer to the forces trying to overthrow the Somoza regime?

[Castro] I think it is a domestic matter between Somoza and the Nicaraguan people. I do not know how to get resources and weapons and they are doing fairly well. It is true that we are not friends of the Somoza government and that it was from Puerto Cabeza that the famous Bay of Pigs invasion was launched. Even Somoza had been planning attacks. This is nothing. We have no sympathy for the Somoza regime and we do not predict a long life for it.

[Question] But you have given refuge to some exiles.

[Castro] I remember when a group of revolutionaries took over a minister's house and the government of Nicaragua itself asked us to receive them here in Cuba as a solution to the problem. They reached an agreement with the revolutionaries and then, as they did now, they reached another agreement and asked us if we were willing to receive them. We helped to solve the problem. So now in this situation, when the National Palace was attacked, if they would have contacted us and asked us to receive the prisoners and the revolutionaries as a solution to the problem, we would have done it, but it was not necessary. Other Latin American governments offered to find a solution. And we did not participate in this at all. But then some of them stated that they preferred to come to Cuba and we authorized them to come.

DETAILS OF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ'S VISIT REPORTED

PA100225Z Madrid EFE in Spanish 1443 GMT 10 Sep 78 PA

[By Jose J. Barriga Bravo, special EFE correspondent]

[Text] The welcome given Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez by the Cuban Government has surpassed all expectations. As the hours of the official visit by the first Spanish prime minister to visit the island go by, some information on the talks between Fidel Castro and Suarez is beginning to become known.

Some observers in the Spanish delegation accompanying Suarez feel that the first to be surprised at this [treatment] was Suarez himself.

Since the Spanish Air Force plane landed on the Caribbean island, the president of the council of the Cuban revolution has not left the Spanish prime minister alone for an instant. Together they have talked, eaten lunch, headed the first round of negotiations, inaugurated the stamp exposition, attended the official reception and retired to talk with their closest aides.

The climate between the two heads of state is one of complete ease when they appear in public. We are even told that this same atmosphere has prevailed during the talks. A member of the Cuban delegation said that Castro joked with Suarez, asking him to forgive the fact that the welcome at Jose Marti Airport had not been more spectacular because "we were going to leave that for the time when King Juan Carlos visits us...."

Some important issues that may be formalized soon have begun to emerge from the talks, which have been conducted in a relaxed climate.

The Spanish-Cuban conflict over sugar imports has been resolved, as the Cuban delegation has understood Madrid's arguments. Thus, Spain would limit itself to importing 75,000 tons of the white Caribbean product. It is also said that two Spaniards who are in jail will be repatriated immediately.

Regarding another major matter in dispute--indemnity for Spanish citizens whose properties on the island were expropriated--Cuba has given assurances that it will reconsider its offer and therefore raise the 15 percent initial evaluation.

It is asserted that the negotiations have been limited to bilateral matters, notably economic topics, for the present.

Castro is said to be prepared to make Spain his agent for trade transactions in Europe. In any event, diplomats who have been interviewed feel that Castro and Suarez have left the major topics for solution in private talks.

Those who know the "commander" well have remarked that the atmosphere of frank and cordial friendship shown to each and every member of the Spanish delegation is far above the norm for a president who, by principle, avoids and ignores protocol. A member of the Spanish delegation said that Castro had remarked, after inquiring about the political situation in Spain, that he also wanted to vote in the coming elections because "I am a native." Apparently, Suarez swiftly retorted: "If it is for my party, yes."

It is believed that several weeks will elapse before the agreements being neogiated are concluded and that further meetings between both sides will be required.

Two urban-born deputies of the Democratic Center Union (Spanish ruling party) who were invited by Suarez to join his retinue have held a long talk with the Cuban revolutionary leader, particularly the representative of one of the Galician provinces whose mother and one brother are buried in Cuba. Castro, upon recalling his Galician ancestry, reiterated his desire to visit Spain. It is this fact which may give rise, or perhaps has given rise, to an official invitation to the Cuban leader but the matter remains a closely guarded secret. The Cuban Government's rapprochement with Spain is the subject of incalculable speculation in foreign ministries abroad.

Castro Will Visit Spain

PA110315Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0257 GMT 11 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 10 Sep (EFE)--Fidel Castro will leave for Ethiopia tonight.

The Cuban leader made this statement to a small group of Spanish newsmen who attended a reception given at the Spanish Embassy by Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, who has been here since yesterday.

Castro said that his plane will leave at about 2300 (0300 GMT) and that the plane will make a stopover at some country which is not Spain.

He said: "I will soon pay an official visit to Spain, as reported, but the plane could very well make a stopover there."

Castro went to the Spanish ambassador's residence to bid farewell to Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and to apologize for not being able to do so at the airport.

Adolfo Suarez, who ends his 2-day visit to Cuba today, and Fidel Castro bade each other farewell in a fraternal embrace.

GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH ANTI-SOMOZA STRUGGLE

PA1001139Y Havana International Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The Cuban Government has released here in Havana a document expressing its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's anti-Somoza struggle and charging that Nicaraguans are the victims of genocide unleashed by Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship. The document, published on the front page of GRANMA, organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, stresses the dignity, courage, dedication to the liberation cause and rebelliousness of the Nicaraguan people, who are resorting to all possible forms of combat in order to overthrow Somoza.

The document emphasizes that the masses of workers and peasants, and even the majority of the bourgeoisie and petite bourgeoisie, have demonstrated their willingness to combat the tyranny. It adds that the Nicaraguan people recognize the Sandinist National Liberation Front as their vanguard.

It says that Somoza's ridiculous accusations against Cuba and his hysterical denunciations of an alleged communist threat are nothing but tricks to justify intervention by the most reactionary U.S. sectors supporting the tyranny. It also stresses that Somoza's regime is trying to facilitate future intervention by the reactionary Central American Defense Council, a military instrument of imperialism for the subregion and of the area's most reactionary regimes, particularly that of Guatemala.

The Cuban Government's declaration also denounces the attitude assumed by Israel, which in recent weeks has turned over to Somoza abundant and sophisticated weapons with which he will try to annihilate popular resistance.

Concluding, the document exhorts international public opinion to remain vigilant in the face of the Nicaraguan people's struggle, whose final victory Yankee imperialism is trying to snatch away, in collusion with its agents in the area.

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